

Friends of Keston Common (incorporating Ravensbourne Open Space and Padmall Wood)

Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm

18 March 2015

Jubilee Room, Keston Village Hall

Present :

Please see secretary for details

Minutes

1.Welcome and Introductions

LH welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Cllr RB and AF

2.Apologies for absence

Please see secretary for details

3.Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2014 were accepted

Proposed – MC

Seconded –AP

4.Matters Arising

5.3 Representatives from KVRA are working with FOKC on Countryside Day

8 The Little Book of Scams is available on the website

5. Chairman's Report (LH)

-pleased to report on numbers taking part in activity mornings : 12-14, rarely less than 10; wished to express thanks for all the effort

- has estimated 2,250 hours' work on all aspects of FOKC – activity mornings, committee business, walks, events etc. in course of the last year

-highlight of the year is culmination of the Heritage Lottery Fund project, with four interpretation boards and Jubilee tree; project only slightly delayed due to waiting for the blacksmith's work; small financial contribution by FOKC towards extra welding on the gate and a spade for the school

- in June hosted Countryside Day, which went well but raised less funds due to inclement weather

- the website has been very successful in attracting about 500 visits a month and almost double the number of the previous year; the history page is especially popular

- recent addition of a Facebook page has resulted in 33 'likes' to date, a figure that compares favourably with Friends' Forum which has 62 'likes' but has been in operation for a year and even more favourably with the Council Facebook page; LH urged members to spread the word amongst

friends; Keston Parish Magazine continues to provide very good coverage of our activities and the meeting recorded its official thanks for this publicity

- AF asked about FOKC involvement in World War One commemorations. FOKC provided a wreath for the Remembrance event in November and will work with KVRA on something suitable for 2018

6. Site Report (JP) (see attached)

7. Treasurer's Report (TD)

7.1 Adoption of Accounts

- TD presented the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2014; an apparent excess in income over expenditure was due to the Heritage Lottery Fund, but the overall balance at the year end was £112

Proposed – JJ
Seconded - NL

7.2 Annual Donations / Membership

- current membership is about 30

- AF reported that the Friends of Darrick Wood have had some discussion about different levels of member involvement, from active members to 'sleeping partners' and had looked again at the case for having subscriptions

- MC emphasised that a condition of obtaining a grant was that the group was not operating a subscription system

8. Review of Constitution

- following a review by the Committee it was proposed that the role of Publicity Officer should be omitted since publicity matters are undertaken by a variety of people; the key roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary would remain, with up to three additional members; there was unanimous support for this amendment

9. Election of Management Committee

- KB had resigned; the remaining members were all standing for re-election; AG and FH were nominated to join the Committee. All were duly elected

10. LBB Parks Review

- LH new Chair of Friends' Forum

- Council needs to save £300,000 a year and proposal is to contract the work to The Landscape Group (TLG); of 40 staff in Greenspaces and Parks 10 posts have been ring-fenced and the jobs of 30 will be reviewed

- since January Dan Jones has held meetings with stakeholders; questions have been asked about the expertise of TLG and how the new arrangements will work in practice; there is a plan to divide Bromley into east, west and south zones with a manager in each; two key points have been made – that Friends' groups work for the community and that their work is in addition to contracted work

- AG asked about the expertise of TLG; LH explained that this relates essentially to urban parks; RB reported that the Service Level Agreement will be monitored by the Council; JJ said that the

SSSI will be monitored by Natural England ; TD emphasised that while the Council already recognises the work of Friends' groups and the money they save for the Borough, our concern is that a private contractor is now involved; LH emphasised the need to regard our role as working for the community

11. Countryside Day

- date set for 28 June; will take same format as previous years; FOKC working with KVRA; about 20 stallholders have committed to the event at present; other Friends groups have been invited; paperwork for the Council in place; will need donations for our own stall and volunteers on the day.
- JJ suggested an e-mail denoting suitable contributions
- LH said would be grateful for small toys for the children's tombola, alcoholic items for the adult raffle and garden plants and cakes

12. Friends' Forum

- has been consulted for the Parks Review
- supporting the Scadbury Friends' group
- involved with a new group which is looking at the Havelock Road recreation area, under threat from the prospect of a new school being built there; RB explained the need for a new school in that area and that the recreation area is a brown field site as it was formerly used for brick making
- updating the Toolkit which provides guidance for new groups
- programme of training courses : one on First Aid has taken place and a second one will be provided; IT courses running on 20 and 24 April at the Widmore Adult Education Centre; series of leadership courses
- conference planned for Tuesday 9 June, with keynote speaker from London Parks

KB asked about London Parks being self funded. LH confirmed this is the case but is not relevant to Keston

13. AOB

13.1 LH proposed another customer satisfaction survey on Monday 25 May

13.2 JJ raised concern about a proposed all weather pitch at Keston Primary school in view of hydrology implications

Action : JJ to send information to LH so that a suitable response can be formulated

14. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15 July 2015

C. Lloyd
27 March 2015