

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

Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm

22 March 2017

Jubilee Room, Keston Village Hall

Present :

Please refer to secretary for details

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

LH welcomed everyone to the ninth Annual General Meeting, in particular guests from Friends of Darrick Wood, LBB and idverde

2. Apologies for absence

Please refer to secretary for details

3. Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held on 16 March 2016 were accepted

Proposed – MC

Seconded – NL

4. Matters Arising

3.8.2 Memorial benches. LH is pursuing the matter with idverde and the stakeholder panel; a policy document is under discussion; RB has e-mailed Councillor Smith on the matter. IW suggested having an agreed number per site; benches could be replaced when no longer serviceable, as long as Natural England approves in light of SSSI status; it should also be remembered that when donated the bench remains the property of the Council

5. LH reported that all guides to sites and biodiversity action plans are on the Friends Forum website

13. the Ravensbourne House development was approved. The application for Forest Lodge has gone to appeal. IW reported that its proposed that a piece of Council owned land on the Forest Lodge site is purchased by the developers for communal use by the flat residents

5. Chairman's Report (LH)

5.1 - another successful year; there are between 12 and 15 participants on Friday activity mornings; thank you to all for the hard work; 2,454 hours of activity for 2016 has been recorded, equivalent to one and three quarters worth of employees

5.2 - until March the group worked with RF and from May with IW once a fortnight

5.3 - ongoing issues: most recently the failure of the pond 2 dam, but repair is currently on track; the Council has agreed to repair the Victorian gate which was damaged by a tree during the gale, once the meadow has dried out; pond 4 still leaks badly

5.4 - MB reported that there is a hole at the base of the fallen tree and this could be dangerous

Action : LH to report

5.5 - good progress on the heathland, meadows , bog and timber yard; also a lot of woodland management, especially towards the roundabout

5.6 - on the social media front there has been an increase in visits to the website from 21,496 last year to 30,255 this year; the history pages are the most visited. Also a rise in followers on Facebook from 67 last year to 132 this year

5.7 - have maintained good relationship with Keston Village Residents' Association and Keston Parish Magazine

6. Site and Workday Programme (IW)

6.1 - IW thanked members for being so welcoming and supportive and re-iterated thanks for the work on the Common

6.2 - IW has had a meeting with Natural England who were complimentary about the way we are managing the Common

6.3 - TD said it had been an enjoyable year working with IW

7. Green Flag Application (LH/IW)

idverde have agreed with the Council to propose three borough sites for Green Flag decided to apply for a Green Flag Award for Keston Common; the award is sponsored by the government and acknowledges the status of the area as one that is very well managed; management plan now includes reference to how we provide for people on the Common; we can expect a visit by the Green Flag team in the summer; once awarded the status we would be judged every year; IW assured FH that biodiversity issues are included in the plan

Action : LH to send out the plan once finalised

8. Treasurer's Report (TD)

8.1 Adoption of Accounts

- £1,149 in the bank as 31 December 2016, about £30 less than last year

- received £100 from Friends Forum in return for submitting statistics; largest income,£396, came from Countryside Day

- in February received £250 from a film company using Keston Common at night

- TD expressed thanks to SR, Honorary Auditor

Proposed : AG
Seconded : AP

8.2 Annual Donations/Membership

- LH has received e-mails about people wishing to leave legacies to FOKC; suggestions welcome as to what to do with the money; this would also be discussed with executors
- membership remains steady at about 40 on the books
- thanks were expressed to TD

9. Review of the Constitution (LH)

The committee has reviewed the constitution and is not presenting any changes

10. Election of Management Committee (LH)

- all current members of the Committee are willing to stand again for re-election
- no additional nominees have been received
- a show of hands indicated unanimous support for current Committee members and all were duly elected for a further 12 months

11. Countryside Day (LH)

11.1 - Sunday 25 June 2017; preparations start at about 9.30 am with formal events from 2pm

11.2 - some 40 organisations have been invited; Jubilee Park and Darrick Friends will be present; Keston Primary school and the Ravensbourne Morris Men will perform

11.3 - paperwork is with idverde; issue of equipment, such as the gazebos, from central stores to be resolved : idverde suggests may not be able to maintain this, but Colin Smith has said the stores should not be compromised by idverde; may have to make a deposit against damage

11.4 - another banner has been ordered for the corner of Commonsides and Croydon Road

11.5 - contributions to the children's tombola and raffle gratefully received

12. Friends Forum (LH)

12.1 - groups were paid £100 for submission of their annual statistics for 2016; the questionnaire for 2017 has been reduced to a single page to simplify the process in the expectation that no monetary gift will be paid

12.2 - training needs questionnaire has been sent out ; courses on IT, biodiversity, leadership, health and safety and first aid planned

12.3 - a business card giving contact details for key players in Parks and Green Spaces is being produced, together with a leaflet and flyer

12.4 - roll-up banners to advertise Friends Forum activities also planned

12.5 - Friends Forum meets every quarter with idverde; at the next meeting LH will raise the importance of Fix My Street issues being discussed with the relevant Friends group; LH has already pursued an issue relating to repair of the information board by the ice cream van; the whole issue of signage in Bromley sites needs addressing; TD thanked LH for his superb work on the information board

12.6 - next conference will take place on Wednesday 17 May 10am – 4pm; key note speaker Dr Sarah Bailey on crime against animals in Bromley; workshops on volunteer development plan, trees and endangered species

12.7 - FH asked whether there was a connection between Friends Forum and the Ramblers Association; LH clarified the situation : Friends Forum is a member of the stakeholder panel, chaired by the Council and includes all parties involved with Bromley's parks and green spaces

13. AOB

13.1 - AP thanked members for leaving a note indicating the place of work activity on Fridays

13.2 - CL proposed a vote of thanks to LH in view of his hard work and outstanding leadership of the group

13.3 - BS asked whether we keep a log of vandalism; MC confirmed that we report this to the authorities

14. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 7.30pm