

## **Friends of Mountsfield Park (FOMP), Annual General Meeting, 23 April 2017**

### **Present:**

Rory McNally – Chair  
Gareth Conyard – Secretary  
Ros Philp  
Maria Conyard  
Rivke John  
Tim Fogarty  
Keeley Mudd  
Hadj Saggars

Apologies: Max Calo (Treasurer), Carrie Blackman,

### **Business:**

#### Finances

1. Current balance is £2439.59. £1500 is from Rushey Green Assembly, committed during 2017 for improving accessibility through new seating and replacement gate latches. We are awaiting delivery before we pay the invoice.
2. In addition, we have recently paid £2000 towards the trim trail. We have raised additional funds via the Skipton Building Society Grassroots Giving campaign, Catford Rotary Club and the Hither Green Community Association.
3. It was noted that we will need to cover the costs of the public liability insurance this year, which that Council has been covering hitherto.

#### Nominations for election

4. Rory McNally was unanimously elected as Chair. Rivke John was unanimously elected as Secretary. Max Calo was unanimously elected as Treasurer.
5. There are four additional roles available for election. Carrie Blackman was unanimously elected to lead on communications. Ros Philp was unanimously elected to lead on events. Tim Fogarty was unanimously elected to lead for the Community Garden.
6. There is one vacant Executive place, which can be filled during the year according to the rules of the FOMP Constitution.

#### Update on Cafe

7. Latest information is that the café operator is currently awaiting quotations from builders to deliver the new building. There have been ongoing delays due to issues with the existing underground foul drain which needs to be replaced or repaired. The café

operator paid for a survey of the foul drain and requested that it is repaired by Glendale or the Council because it is in very poor condition. Rats can often be seen near to where they live in the network of broken drains underneath the community garden next to where the café will be built.

8. FOMP members are keen to have a temporary café in the park if the new building does not start to be built until later in the year. The FOMP Executive are committed to working with the café operator to keep the wider FOMP membership informed about timescales, and to work with anybody willing to open a temporary café over the summer. It was suggested that direct contact with the Local Authority and with local councillors might be worth considering by anybody interested in operating a temporary café.
9. The hard work of members was acknowledged in keeping a new café at the top of the Local Authority's mind, including through the successful petition last summer.

### Events

10. Teddy Bears' Picnic. This will take place during the Hither Green Festival week at the end of May 2017. Rivke John noted a possible interest from somebody helping in the Community Garden in providing music – and agreed to follow this up. Rory McNally will speak to the Council and Glendale about relevant access.
11. The Big Lunch is planned for 18 June 2017, to be held in the Community Garden. This is being organised by Keeley Mudd and some neighbours. Rory McNally suggested Keeley Mudd contacts Cllr James Walsh as there may be funds available. Again, Rory McNally will contact the Council and Glendale about relevant access.
12. People's Day takes place in July. Further discussions are needed on FOMP's role. Maria Conyard offered to use contacts with the Local Authority to see what options might be available. FOMP will also consider ways to raise money, including for donations.

### Other business

13. Maria Conyard noted that the Council may have a contact to repaint the cabins in the Community Garden and will follow up and report back.
14. The SpaceHive crowdfunding for fox proof bins is live. We require £10,000 for 27 replacement litter bins. Installation of recycling bins in the park may be a possibility if this becomes Council policy. An alternative fundraising approach if the SpaceHive bid is unsuccessful, is to consider a staged bid to the Rushey Green Assembly, or to speak to the Co-op for community funding.
15. Rory McNally noted that there may be a benefit in sharing a 'wish list' for the Park with the Council for Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The following was agreed (in no particular order):

- a. Full time park keeper to make Mountsfield Park safer, cleaner and more welcoming (and to open the park toilets in the short term before we have a café built with toilets);
- b. Fox proof litter and recycling bins (if the SpaceHive bid is not successful);
- c. Bandstand roof and floor refurbishment. Pigeons are finding a way into the roof through broken tiles. It would be wonderful if the bandstand could be made good with an electric supply so that it could be used by musicians;
- d. Tennis court and ball court refurbishment – the tennis courts and ball court are very popular, but showing significant signs of wear and tear;
- e. All-weather football pitch with lighting immediately to the south of Stanton Lodge to satisfy huge local demand for all weather football facilities;
- f. Repairs to underground foul drain so that café can be built with proper working drainage services and to reduce the rat population in the park near to the community garden ;
- g. Replacement avenue tree planting and maintaining existing trees. Many mature trees have died at Mountsfield Park but have not been replaced in the last 15 years;
- h. Facilities for older children (e.g. skate park, parkour, larger all weather football area etc.);
- i. Small, fenced-off area in the North-East corner, immediately around the play area and Community Garden in which dogs must be kept on a lead (for the benefit of families with younger children and dogs themselves);
- j. Establishing a jogging trail (signs, paved surfaces and distance posts);
- k. Hedgehog friendly park in conjunction with neighbouring properties that back onto the park;
- l. Water feature, or pond, in the Community Garden;
- m. Potting shed in the Community Garden;
- n. Improve signage in the park;
- o. Improve metal fencing around the park, especially on Stainton Road, George Lane, and Brownhill Road entrances. Brownhill Road entrance is not welcoming and should be redesigned and landscaped ;
- p. Manage rough sleeping at bottom end of the park;
- q. Manage alcohol and substance abuse on and near to benches at bottom end of the park and in the community garden. Alcohol and substance abuse at Mountsfield Park is off putting to many people because it makes the space feel unsafe and not welcoming;
- r. More species rich meadow grassland and tree planting.

**FIN**