



Minutes of Meeting
held on 17 January 2012
at St Hilda's Church Crypt

Present:- Friends of Blythe Hill Fields members:

Nicholas Taylor (Chair), Marcel Jenkins , Gavin Bolam, Leo Stevens, Lynne Owen, Jo Knorpel, Jo Ireland, John Tookey, Cathy Ashley, Anne Scott, Rebecca Loathlean, Philip Martindale, Mark Wellband

1. Welcome

Nicholas Taylor (NT) welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

NT went through the minutes of the last meeting and it was unanimously agreed that the festival would take place on 7 July 2012.

Noelle O'Connor has resigned from the committee due to work and personal commitments. NT thanked her for her hard work.

Jo Ireland (JI) was voted onto the committee by those present.

3. Festival

Marcel Jenkins (MJ) printed a draft budget for the festival (on a break even basis) but this was a very rough estimate at this stage.

The only guaranteed income was the grant from the Crofton Park Assembly and the rest was dependent on sales made on the day at the Friends' various stalls (which were the badge stall, sausage stall, plant stall and cake stall).

MJ said that the same people had been running these stalls for the last 5 years and may not want to do so again so it was agreed that the NT would contact the incumbents and ask them if they wished to carry on running them (Alan Bailey for badges, Mark Wellband for sausages, Kylie Barnes for plants and Molly Bertrand for cakes). NT

Mark Wellband confirmed that he was happy to run the sausage stall again and there was a discussion about whether to buy the sausages from Peter James, another supplier of Mark's neighbour or Sainsburys. The consensus was that it would be better buying from a local supplier and Gavin Bolam (GB) would talk to Peter James about whether he would be willing to supply them. GB

Other assumptions in the budget were that we could borrow the generator at no cost and that the insurance and licence costs were as shown. MJ would speak to Glendale about this. MJ

1 extra marquee had also been budgeted for but thought would need to be given as to storage as it is very large.

There was a general discussion about printing professional leaflets but the consensus was that this was not necessary for the flyers as most would be thrown away. However, it was agreed that the A3 posters advertising the festival should be professionally printed and MJ would talk to Sydney Couldridge about designing them again. MJ

It was agreed that a poster campaign advertising for volunteers should be run in April as this was successful last year. Again, MJ would speak to Sydney Couldridge about designing one. MJ

It was agreed that stall prices would be increased to £25 per pitch and food stalls to £60 (perhaps more if they wanted a bigger patch). Babur's charge was to remain at £300.

It was proposed that all food stalls be put in one area this year but care needed to be given to queues. It was also proposed that Glendale be asked to clean up dog mess in the park the week before the festival to make picnics more pleasant.

In terms of roles for the festival, GB agreed to be in charge of food stalls, NT will be in charge of non-food stalls and JI would be in charge of co-ordinating the delivery of leaflets.

A meeting of the festival working party would be held on 7 February to make a start on planning.

4. Tree Planting and trim trail

NT and Lynne Owen (LO) held an open air meeting in the park last week with Glendale.

It was agreed that the hedge whips donated by the Girl Guides would be planted on 4 February at 10am and all volunteers were welcome.

Glendale have already replaced some of the dead trees but NT suggested that there be a moratorium on any more planting until the spring so that it was easy to see which ones were now dead (including the 2011 replacements).

He also thought that Glendale should plant more mature trees so that they had more chance of surviving. He would look at the Arboricultural Society website for more information on the best types of tree to plant in London clay and the best methods of planting the,. It would be better to spend more and plant fewer trees, to ensure survival.

There was no date for the Trim Trail installation yet.

5. AOB

Philip Martindale of Peel to Save asked whether the Friends would consider looking at his scheme.

Information can be found at www.peel2save.co.uk and it was agreed that the committee would look at this scheme and report back at the next meeting.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 6 March 2012 at a venue TBC. Due to issues with the door at St Hilda's, it is doubtful whether we would return there and either the Ackroyd Centre or the Honor Oak would be considered in future.

MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Blythe Hill Fields (FBHF) exists to represent everyone living around or using Blythe Hill Fields. Our purpose is to achieve sustainable improvements and facilities in this vital resource for the benefit of the whole community. We aim to promote the increased use and enjoyment of this essential open space.

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