

Purpose of Meeting: FoBHF AGM
Date of Meeting: Monday 8th November 2021
Place of Meeting: Blythe Hill Tavern
Time: 8pm



Present:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Initials</i>
Richard Ibell	(FoBHF Treasurer)	RI
Jo Bell	(FoBHF Secretary)	JB
Jim Smith	(FoBHF Committee Member)	JS
Katherine Hughes	(FoBHF Committee Member)	KH
Jo Miller	(FoBHF Committee Member)	JM
Mike Williams	(Friend of the Fields)	MW
Josh	(Friend of the Fields)	J.
Helen Raggatt	(FoBHF Committee Member)	HR

Ref**Action****General Update**

JB gave a brief update of the park news over the last year:

2.

The FoBHF held another successful community festival, this year in September due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Not
e**

A drinking water fountain was installed beside the Blythe Hill Lane entrance. This was part funded by the Friends as part of the last Greening Fund and has proven very popular with the locals.

The Friends were approached by The International Dark Sky Association to consult on the fields becoming an Urban Night Sky Place.

The Friends submitted a funding application to the Lewisham Greening Fund in September 2021.

New picnic and standard benches were installed in the park, again part funded by the Friends.

Sadly Tim Part relocated from London and therefore stepped down as Chair of the Friends.

Significant progress was made by committee members Graeme and Katherine on the park signage project which has been formally submitted to Glendale/ Lewisham for sign off.

Zaria continued to organise tree planting and maintenance sessions with local volunteers.

The Friends were approached to support the planting of a memorial tree by a local resident.

5. JB to post an update on the website.

6.

1.2.

JB

Festival

HR gave a brief summary of the festival including the challenges and positives. Key challenges included recruiting sufficient volunteers for the day and appointing volunteers to key organising positions in the months running up to the event. A number of key volunteers had dropped out leaving a large volume of work to be done by others. Positives included the number of attendees and overwhelmingly positive feedback from the community following the event. Key aspects of the festival which were a success included the Kids Tent, BBQ, the live music Main Stage and the Woodland Stage. It was agreed that items not putting on the Garden Games had been a good idea. It was also agreed that the number of stalls was about right. All agreed that the fairground queues were long but that it is very difficult to manage that due to the event not being ticketed. It was agreed that the cake, t-shirt and plant stall in the Friends tent had been successful with the majority of items selling out. The feedback boards and history boards had also been a success with good levels of community interaction.

Note

RI provided a financial report on the festival which brought a surplus of £12,000. Card machines were used by the Friends for the first time and although there is a 3p in the pound charge all agreed that overall the introduction had been positive with £1,500 of sales/ donations. RI advised that the key issue this year had been that no profit share was agreed with the licenced vendors in advance of the day as had previously been done. JB/ HR both advised that they had not been aware of this and the stalls team had not either. RI to liaise with the stalls teams to put this in place in future.

RI

RI advised that the takings from the funfair had increased on previous years, as had that from the stalls, BBQ and sponsorship while the raffle had cost less. All commended MW for organising the sponsorship and raffle. The cake sale had taken less than previous years. Nothing was spent on garden games as previous. All agreed that the overall position was positive.

Note

Financial Report

Festival made £8.5k

Card transaction cost is 1.69%

Total cash (at time of meeting) £29,476.24 of which we have set aside £17,620.

5. Committee Election

- RI advised that Tim had relocated away from London leaving the Chair position vacant. All agreed that Tim had done a great job of Chair and thanked him for all his efforts. HR proposed Mike Williams as Chair. RI seconded and the committee members present approved. MW was elected the new Chair. **Note**
2. JB advised that she is pregnant with her first child and is therefore resigning from the position of Secretary. There were no volunteers present for the role of Secretary so this position remains open. JB to post on the social media platforms and website. **JB**
- 4.2
3. RI advised that he is happy to continue as Treasurer for another year. Jo M proposed and Mike seconded. RI was elected Treasurer. **Note**
- 4.3
4. HR advised that she was resigning as lead organiser of the festival. All thanked Helen for her amazing contributions over the years. <<Committee member?>> **Note**
- 4.4
5. JM advised that she and Graeme were both happy to volunteer to be committee members. HR proposed both and RI seconded. JM and GC were elected committee members. **Note**
- 4.5
6. KH and JS <<Nicholas>> advised that they were happy to volunteer to be committee members. MW proposed and RI and JM seconded. KH and JS were elected committee members. **Note**
- 4.6
7. Nicholas couldn't attend the meeting but also volunteered to be a committee member. RI proposed and JS seconded. Nicholas was elected as a committee member. **Note**
- 4.7
8. JB to send all committee member's contact details to MW along with the social media and website login details. **JB**
- 4.8

7. Dark sky certification

2. JB advised that the next step is for the Friends to write a letter of support following the overwhelmingly positive community feedback about the Urban Night Sky Place application. The text of the draft letter is as follows:
3. Dear Lewisham Council & Glendale,
- 4.
5. We, the Committee of The Friends of Blythe Hill Fields, are writing in support of applying for an IDA (International Dark-Sky Association) Urban Night Sky Place Certification for Blythe Hill Fields. We were originally approached by Megan Eaves of Dark Sky London to consider this certification early in 2021. Since then the Committee has undertaken community consultation in order to gauge local feeling about the proposal.
- 6.
7. Megan originally posted on the Friends of Blythe Hill Facebook Group on 2nd January 2021. The post included an explanation of the association and an invitation for local people to comment on the proposal to get BHF certified as a dark-sky site, along with a link to the association website. This attracted 100 reactions and 66 comments. The reactions were 78 'Likes' and 22 'Loves' with no neutral or negative reactions. The comments were overwhelmingly positive with many references to stargazing and the protection of biodiversity, including enquiries about stargazing opportunities from Scouts and a local counsellor (Lewisham Cllr Sophie McGeevor, Brockley Ward Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport) in reference to schools participation. There were no neutral or negative comments.
- 8.
9. The Committee subsequently posted a poll on the Friends of Blythe Hill Facebook Group on 24th July 2021. This was advertised on Twitter and Instagram. The poll received 90 'Yes' votes, 2 'No' votes and 1 'Unsure'. The Committee then posted the results of the vote on the Friends of Blythe Hill Fields website on 10th August 2021.
- 10.
11. The Committee is therefore of the view that there is clear support for the initiative and it is something which the Committee also supports. We, and Megan, are keen to progress the certification in conjunction with Glendale and Lewisham Council.

- 8.5.2 . 9. Once the letter is agreed it is to be sent to Glendale/ Lewisham in conjunction with Megan Eaves of the International Dark-Sky Association to progress the application. **Note**
- 11. Greening Fund**
2. JB advised that Alice Casey had been instrumental in this year's Greening Fund Application. All agreed that many thanks were owed to Alice. This year's funding allocations were to focus on access, young people and play and biodiversity and sustainability. **Note**
3. 4. JB advised that the application had been submitted in September and that feedback was anticipated in late November/ early December. The application included £5k for groundworks and table tennis maintenance, £10k for planting, £5k for accessible play provision, £10k for trim trail style equipment for older children, £4.5k for picnic tables and benches, and £2.5 for boundary works, to give a total of £ 37k. **Note**
- 6.2
- 13. Memorial Tree**
- 14.7.1 . 15. JB advised that Glendale had now provided permission for the Weeping Silver Lime to be planted near the foot of the park at the Stillness Road side. This memorial is being led and funded by close friends of the deceased local woman who loved the fields and whose family still live close by.
- 16.8. 17. Signage Project**
1. 2. KH advised that the final designs had been sent to Peter Maynard for Council approval. All agreed that this needed chasing up as the community and the Friends are so keen to get the signs installed now. **Note**
- 8.1
- 18. 19. Any other business**
- 9.
20. 21. RI to allocate funding for a FoBHF social to take place in Feb 2022. **RI**
- 9.1
22. 23. Josh advised that the New Year's Day football game was going ahead. Josh to invite the Marchetti coffee van. **Josh**
- 9.2
24. 25. HR suggested organising litter picking days on the fields. **HR**
- 9.3

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| 26. | 27. | KH raised the Montacute Road entrance and possible improvements. KH to speak to local residents. | KH |
| 9.4 | | | |
| 28. | 29. | JB to redirect Secretary emails to RI until a new secretary is found. | JB |
| 9.5 | | | |
| 30. | 31. | Date of Next Meeting | |
| 10. | | | |
| | 2. | Online meeting to be held in Jan 2022. | MW |

Minutes Dated: 20.11.2021