



AGM Agenda
Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields
10th November 2018 10.30am
Park Pavilion

Invited: Friends Membership and Executive Committee

Attendees: Kate North, Sophie Cabral, Charles Barraball, Di Walker, Sarah Thorne, John Gilron White, Helen Shelley, Bernie McAlister, Sarah McAlister, Caroline Ventom, Lorayne Bell, Rachel Von Rietberg, Clare Gallagher, Hina Bokhari, Fiona Segasby, Oliver Segasby, Jane Pritchard and Josh Pritchard-Chase, Leo Palizzo, Alan Barrett, Louis Barrett

Apologies: Vici Hoban

- JP Thanked everyone for coming and thanked the committee and Bernie McAlister who had prepared the finance report as the new treasurer.

1. Voting for committee members (Chair)

- JP outlined the current committee members as follows:

Chair – Jane Pritchard

Treasurer – Bernie McAlister

Secretary – Sarah Thorne

Marketing and Events Coordinator – Hina Bokhari

- In addition, JP outlined that the committee was supported by the following volunteers:

Caroline Ventom – founding member

Sophie Cabral – founding member

Dianne Walker – founding member

Kate North – Heavily involved in the community and also works as a TA at Green Lane Primary and Nursery School

- JP asked whether anyone wished to nominate themselves for the positions and voting took place as follows:
 - Chair – Jane Pritchard was nominated by Dianne Walker and seconded by Kate North
 - Treasurer – Jane Pritchard nominated Bernie McAlister and was seconded by Dianne Walker.
 - Marketing and Events Coordinator – Jane Pritchard nominated Hina Bokhari and was seconded by Dianne Walker
 - Sarah Thorne wished to step down as Secretary, but as no one was forthcoming Jane nominated Sarah to continue until dates were decided upon for a further open meeting to find a replacement. This nomination was seconded by Dianne Walker. Fiona Segasby volunteered to assist with the secretarial role



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2. Finance report (Chair)

Presentation of 2016/17 and 2017/18 accounts:

- The Accounting period runs from December to December.
- The following observations were made.
 - There was less income for Hut café in 2017 compared with 2016, however there was also less expenditure.
 - The Summer fair had taken in total around £1,400 but this figure appears less in the accounts due some of the profit being shown in the café takings.
 - There was no Crazy golf refurbishment with the Scouts this year compared to the previous two years.
 - The Dog show made much less this year due to very poor weather, however it was a great positive that approximately 20 dogs still participated despite poor conditions. This was compared to 75 dogs the previous year when the weather was very favorable. The event continued to be sponsored by Park Vets leading to marginal expenses.
 - 2017 saw a net income of circa £3,500 with marginal expenses of circa £1,000.
 - There is £22K currently in bank the account against last year's £18,500
- JP outlined that the Friends have had a historical philosophy of organising accessible events, free to attend, which aim to ensure maximum community participation and pleasure as part of the friends objectives. The Friends have also historically supported and partnered with stakeholder agencies e.g: The local scout group, local church, little league etc. who have had free stalls at Friends events and were able to benefit from the profit they made for their organisations. The Scouts made an £800 profit from their BBQ stall at this year's party in the park.
- JP was keen to canvass the community opinion on whether this was deemed the right approach.

3. Charity conversion (Chair)

- JP explained that the Friends had been planning and were about to convert to Charity status. JP presented the new charitable objectives for approval and outlined the reasons for conversion:
 - Statutory requirement for funds of £5K and over.
 - More eligibility for grant funding and a wider source of grants.



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- Gift aid eligibility will mean that any donation can benefit from the rebate of tax and offers the community the ability to give regular donations if they wanted to.
 - Regularization of employing café staff. Staff running the café are young volunteers and paid expenses. Converting to charity status will mean that we are able to employ staff now. The Friends also view this as work for the community as many volunteers have done so as part of their Duke of Edinburgh and have taken on the role as a first supported job which they can be paid for.
- A model constitution has been adopted which will be put on the website along with the objectives which were outlined as follows:
 - To secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Sir Joseph Hood
 - Memorial Playing Field ("the park") as a place of active and passive public recreation and sports.
 - To promote the conservation of the natural plant, invertebrate, bird and animal life of the park for the benefit of the public and future generations, including by seeking to limit the adverse effects, on the Park, of policies, developments and activities which may damage the attributes of the Park.
 - To encourage the public to use the park as a place for social engagement and community interaction including but not limited to children's recreation, dog walking and fitness activities.
- JP asked if anyone had any comments:
 - There was a discussion about Cross rail and the potential impact on the park. JP and HB underlined that this year would be an important year for the Friends in terms of preservation protection and improvement with competing resources for the land. Cross Rail 2 will have a full consultation for the public in June but HB pointed out that so much is open to change with the current financial situation and Brexit; holding Charity status, however, will be strengthen the Friends ability to help protect the park for the community in the face of any such changes.
 - Sarah McAlister asked whether the Pavilion should make up part of the objectives as there were concerns about its upkeep. Rachel Von Rietberg (runs Little Rascals) mentioned that the Pavilion had recently been surveyed and that perhaps the friends could get a copy of that survey. JP and HB explained that the Pavilion belongs to Merton but the rental was subbed out to ID Verde.
 - Hina Bokari warned that Merton council have different objectives for the buildings and do view pavilions as a source of potential income.
 - Rascals have negotiated a new lease but the terms keep increasing.



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- Sophie Cabral highlighted that Sir Joseph Hood had left park for the community and these deeds should be checked to see if they can assist the Friends in ensuring that the Pavilion is kept as a resource for the community.

4. How to spend current reserves (Chair)

- How should we spend our funds?
- The Friends currently have £22k in bank. Wanted to discuss what how the community would like to spend this. Following charity conversion we would plan preferably to only keep 6 months operating costs and that any money should be spent towards the objectives.
- £10K of this money is currently ring fenced for the paddling pool which takes this amount down £12K
- JP explained that having met on a number of occasions with ID Verde their version of the paddling pool was very different from Merton Councils – who had led us to believe that the pool is under constant threat of closure. ID Verde conversely said that they had heard nothing of this and that they they doubted that the paddling pool would be closed unless it became completely untenable – however its condition is currently not that bad. The cost of a Splash Pad would be in the region of £300K so given this new information JP asked whether people felt this money should continue to be ring fenced for water play.
- Kate North and Sarah McAlister both felt that given this information it should not. Sophie Cabral highlighted the need to ensure that this was properly communicated to those who had contributed their funds to the splash pad campaign.
- Other ideas for spending the money include refurbishing the Crazy Golf. E.G: If the Friends spend £20K, ID Verde had said they would match this to do a refit with an idea of running affordable parties using the party room and having a free separate space to the pavilion for shelter to make it an all year venue. Additionally, schools and community groups could utilize this facility. ID Verde are currently refurbishing the Wimbledon Park Crazy Golf and investing £480K on this. We do not have the footfall for this type of project (nor would want to) but wondered whether we could capitalize on the contractors that are working on this.
- Claire Gallagher thought that this was a good idea to put the money into the crazy golf and café as will make money and raising money towards park.
- Other ideas which had been considered: the play park equipment; we had considered fixing the broken slide, however we need to be mindful of not spending money that falls under ID Verde remit.



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- The Tennis courts could also benefit from a Respray tennis courts – however this is also something which perhaps would come under maintenance and therefore could fall to ID Verde.
- JP said that we would survey members and put in other options for what to spend the money on.
- It was agreed that we would release the £10K ring fenced for the paddling pool.

5. Events update Hina Bokhari

- Hina talked recapped again the events the friends had put on this year
- Earth day – this was an event not to make money but just to raise awareness for the environment and how important the park was to the environment. This was successful and will be an annual event.
- Party in the park was a great success and was a great showcase for local businesses and groups who were there to promote themselves e.g. little league and scouts but taking Janes earlier point HB asked the attendees whether we should be thinking about how we can make more money from party in the park or whether we should continue in the vein of bringing people together for social engagement.
- Sarah McAlister commented that if we were not fund raising for a specific project then our current approach could be well justified. Kate North agreed.
- Discussed with Leo from Little league the potential of doing joint events. He mentioned that in 2019 Little League were celebrating their 50th anniversary. To be discussed.
- The Friends had scheduled a litter pick and dog walking event and though the most recent one was cancelled due to lack of participation, we were very keen to get these going on a quarterly basis. A member of the community had suggested an app called Literati – which allows for the gamification of litter picking and this is something we are going to look into. Suggested 1st December for the first of these events.
- JP explained that the friends had been discussing a Farmers market with ID Verde once a month. ID Verde would run this and if it went ahead would be on a Saturday. Friends would help to facilitate. Leo from Raynes Park little league wondered what time this would be. JP said that we could work it around LL. Leo mentioned that the Weather would need to be considered!
- Other event ideas that had been raised were a Quarterly Quiz at the Earl Beatty and HB has suggested putting up a Christmas tree at Earl Beatty with the Friends Banner together for an evening of singing, mince pies etc. and a donation bucket.



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6. Introduction to Riverfly- Beverley Brook Citizens Science Project (Chair)

- JP outlined this project. The Friends have been chosen as one of 4 sites – by South East River Trust to monitor invertebrates in the Brook and report back with levels for pollution. No previous experience is necessary, full training equipment and insurance is provided for 18+. 6 volunteers are needed to participate.
- JP said that the Friends would open the hut and the side room in the pavilion for and bring back to do the monitoring so done in a structured manner.
- The following people volunteered:
- Fiona Segasby, Lorraine Bell, Caroline Ventom, Sarah McAlister, Graham Bell, Charles Barraball.
- Reserves noted as Sophie Cabral and Hina Bokhari and (perhaps) Vici Hoban

7. AOB

- Fiona Segasby suggested getting in touch with Black Cap Bob who documents monthly all the birds and invertebrates and butterflies and has an annual report published books. Fiona Segasby will get in touch.