



Minutes for AGM of the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields;

Location: Pavilion in the Park

26/11/17 11am

Attendees: Sarah Thorne, Kate North, Dianne Walker, Caroline Ventom, Sophie Cabral, Hina Bokhari, Leo Palazzo, Bernie and Sarah McAllister, Gilli & Brian Lewis-Lavender, Elsbeth Carillo,

Apologies: Jane Pritchard, Richard Johnson, Charles Barraball, Mary Jane-Jeanes, Damian Cassidy

1. Financial Report: Money in Bank, Expenses, Money Raised

ST outlined the financials.

- 2015 £6.5
- 2016 £13.500 made £7k net profit
- 2017 £18,500 made £5k net profit after spend on refurbishment of hut, freezer and equipment
- KN outlined that Sumer 2016 was not great weather wise but the café had kept going and had made a reasonable amount of money – Golf was about 30% of takings and usually opening was covering costs.

2. Recap on Friends activities to date:

2016

- Facebook group and page set up to access a wider community of supporters –
- 464 (2016)members
- 643 members today
- Friends refurbished and moved the cafe area into the Hut to improve profile and give better access. New Logo created and banners sponsored by local businesses.

EVENTS 2016 & 17

Community litter picks

Family Fun run (sept 2015)

Splash Dance Event. (March 16)

Local Cub Group joined Friends to clean up the Crazy Golf area for use during the summer April 2016/17

Green Flag awarded 16/17

Fun Family Dog Show (May 2017)



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Sir Joes Party in the Park (July 2017)

Summer Hut and Crazy Golf opening – Pool Opening

- Pool continues to open in 2016 and 2017
- Friends organise rota and supplies to run open up Cafe and toilets at regular timings at the weekend and through the Summer overseeing the new arrangements with IDVerde.
- Paddling pool is extremely well populated with 600+ people present on hot days. Friends try to assist with litter control which rises during high usage - liaising with council and public.

Campaigns/dissemination

Parking meter consultation

- Discussed the latest update regarding parking. The gates are now being opened at 6.15 by Chris and though there are now only a few cars parking in the morning it is anticipated that this will certainly change once word gets around and commuters start parking. The ideal situation is that the gates remain shut until 9.30 which was presenting no problems.
- Submitted Richard Johnson's point of view that the early morning opening seems counter-productive. He suggests opening access to a few spaces. These can be auctioned via a lease for A SMALL NUMBER of the parking places for 1 year, to the highest bidders. The remaining spaces would be cordoned off and only accessible after 9:30, as they were before.
- Gili and Brian are in communication with the key decision makers regarding the change in opening hours of the gates and will report back to the Friends on progress. So far, they have not had a response or acknowledgement to their email of Thursday 23rd November. - Stance will be pushing **The Friends going forward into 2018** to retain a 9.30am opening time and their next step is to
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1. ID VERDE – the impact on the friends for 2017

ST outlined the changes in structure of the running of the Park since 2016. Since Feb 2017 IDVerde now have the contract to manage the Green Spaces for Merton's Green Spaces and all the maintenance of Sir Joseph Hood MPF now falls to ID Verde who are a commercial venture. There have been quite a few teething troubles for this contract and it is still ironing out as far as we can see.

Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum recently met with IdVerde and a copy of the minutes will be forwarded to attendees outlining the reporting structure for ID Verde.

- LP representing Raynes Park Little League explained that RPLL (a not for profit organisation bringing football to all the community) will now be charged for pitches and are in negotiations with Richard Kelly over fees but overall this may be between 3 – 4K. RPLL are distinct from other sports organisations using the park such as Motspur Park Football Club and Aussie Rules both of



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whom are commercial organisations. It was noted that the park was originally donated to the community for use as a sports facility and so its intention was to host such causes.

- ST outlined that the Friends of SJHMPF's main funding aim from late 2015 had been to preserve water-play in the Park. The Friends have a £10K amount ring-fenced for the Splash Pad fund but the cost of a Splash Pad is £270K and grants are not easy to come by given the very specific nature of the paddling pool and its very high cost. There had been an understanding that if paddling pools in the Merton area were closing (due to health and safety and high running costs) a more efficient Splash Pad may be installed to compensate for the closures and the Friends were pushing for this to be sited at SJHMPF – however such rumours have been unconfirmed and since ID Verde have taken over the contract and are managing the pool, it is difficult to get any visibility on plans for the future.
- ST said that the Friends of SJHMPF therefore wanted to consult with the community, on what to do with the funds raised so far – would they be put to better use elsewhere or should we continue to ring fence them?

CV suggested that funds could be directed to Little League as there funding was being cut.

SC suggested that the funds could be put towards refurbishing the existing paddling pool

SMc and HB both felt that the money should remain ring fenced given that there was no visibility on the plans going forward at this stage.

- It was agreed that the funds should remain ring-fenced but that further funding efforts could be directed elsewhere into the park for potential areas of improvement/ collaboration: e.g. play equipment repair, plants, trees, etc.
- It was agreed that there should be potential collaboration between RPLL and Friends for fund raising efforts.
- ST explained we had met with Doug Napier and separately, Richard Kelly from IDVerde but that getting any visibility on future plans was proving difficult as it was not clear that they knew at this stage how things would pan out. It was agreed that a further meeting with ID Verde should be organised to try to get visibility on plans for the pool and future of the park in addition to walking them around our site again to ensure they understand expectations.

Voting on Structure for the Friends

- Chair – In Janes absence –JP to continue as Chair Nominated by Sarah Thorne and seconded by the Executive Committee.
- Executive Committee –CV, SC, DW and KN would continue in their roles on the Exec Committee



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- Secretary/membership – ST to continue but pointed out that time was now significantly reduced as full time working now.
- Treasurer – Damian Cassidy has stepped down as Treasurer – Bernie McAlistair volunteered to join the committee as treasurer – this was agreed with thanks and he was nominated by Sarah Thorne and seconded by the Executive Committee.
- Fundraising/Marketing – Hina Bokhari volunteered to join the committee in the role of Fundraising Marketing Manager – this was agreed with thanks.
 - Next meeting should include handovers and explanations for new committee members.

3. AOB

Alf Acott Award 2017 – Kate North was nominated for her outstanding contribution to organising the Summer Café. This was agreed.