



25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 1pm

**Attendees:**

FSJHMPF: Chair: Jane Pritchard, Sarah Thorne, Kate North, Sophie Cabral, Lorryayne Bell

Cllr: Hina Bokhari - Lib Deb Councillor, Karen Bibb, Howard Leigh, Lisa Childs, Hilary Pereira , Sonia Agriao, Nicola Dugdale,

Caroline Ventom Richard Johnson, George Marshall, Claire Stiebel

- JP outlined purpose of the meeting to discuss outcome of the emergency meeting regarding the Mast works in SJHMPF on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and to outline works undertaken by The Friends over time and to engender support ahead of an Extraordinary meeting of the friends in two weeks.
- JP made Introductions to the Friends committee.
- JP summarised the friends work so far including events, fund raising and then went on to outline the objectives of the Friends.
- JP recapped on the situation regarding the Telecoms Mast Work and highlighted the chain of events leading up to the emergency meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 at 1pm (minutes available on request). Quick action of Friends, Stakeholders and Councillor Bokhari had meant that works were halted until a letter of complaint was drafted (including responses from local stakeholders) and an the emergency meeting took place.
- At the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Merton council admitted that they had got things wrong and formerly apologised for the lack of communication with stakeholders. They agreed to change the direction of the path for the laying of the mast in order to ensure RPLL and MPFC could continue using the fields for games. Merton also gave assurances that they would ensure the ground was 'made good'. It was agreed that this will need to be carefully monitored post work as the impact of works will not immediately be apparent.
- Whilst JP explained that The friends were pleased that Merton had conceded and made changes – HB underlined that we still await a formal public apology (which was agreed at the meeting) and communication continued to be poor as work was undertaken with very few residents being notified about the road order which meant frequent traffic disruptions on Marina avenue as large vehicles came and bringing the Mast etc.
- JP pointed out that with regard to the installation of the Mast and the question mark around the lease of the land, having taken advice, the legal position was that as a group we were not in a position to challenge this decision. It is unclear whether in light of changes in legislation, the restrictive covenant on the land (written just under 100 years ago) would be enforceable and it was deemed highly unlikely that any challenge would be successful. The Friends would not want to use money raised to challenge with litigation instead wanting to use the collective voice and influence of the group in pursuit of preservation of park.
  - It was agreed that once work was concluding on the Mast, HB would arrange a further site visit with Merton Council and stakeholders (including Richard Kelly from ID Verde) to discuss a plan to ensure any affects from the works for installation continue to be monitored and made good as per the agreement from Merton council on the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
  - It was agreed that other areas of concern in the park (which had already been emailed to the council following a Friend's inspection but no response received– e.g. hedgecutting etc. ) would be raised at this meeting.
  - HB agreed to speak to JB from Merton Council to agree whether the minutes from the emergency meeting could be published.



## Minutes for public meeting: Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

Location: Zoom

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- JP highlighted that JP and ST were stepping down from The Friends and are looking for further people to support the ongoing work of the Friends to keep things going. There is a sum of money to be spent that has been raised by The Friends and need to agree where this should be done and are holding the meeting in 14 days to do this JP requested that those present attend this meeting and engender support from others to ensure work to preserve the park can continue.

**It was agreed the meeting will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 12 o clock and will be advertised on Social Media, to members and on the Nextdoor site.**