

FRIENDS of LORDSHIP REC

Minutes of Annual General Meeting (via Zoom) March 7th 2021

Present: Dave Morris (Chair), Joan Curtis (Sec), Caroline Jepson (Treas), Catherine Collingborn (Woodland), Sally Haywill (Orchard), Nina Prieto (Noticeboards), Alyson Bradley (Wildlife Group, and took minutes), Louise (Harmony Gdns) and 4 other members **Apologies:** Ruth Green (Spinney and Harmony Gdns)

The Chair, Dave Morris, welcomed participants and invited them to introduce themselves.

Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated by email and were agreed.

The Annual Report had also been circulated, and a summary was read by Joan (Secretary)

The Friends group and the Hub Co-op (which we support) had had an extraordinarily difficult year but it was heartwarming that there had been such a generous response to the Hub crowdfunding appeal to help it survive closure during the first lockdown. Many more people than usual came to use the Rec when not permitted to travel further, including people who had never visited before. Many also put photos and comments on the Facebook page (overseen by Joan). Joan produced a series of superb, detailed 'Hub Huddle' bulletins last summer.

A 'core group' of people who usually attended the monthly meetings continued to meet via Zoom, and some volunteering happened when possible, including a new litter-picking group which has attracted new helpers, and positive reactions.

There were some changes to the Parks staff, and representatives of the Friends met with them to walk round the Rec and discuss ongoing work. Friends also continued to participate in LRUF meetings with the Council staff and other interested parties.

Some activities were possible; a small scale Flower and Produce show, and Wassail celebrations. In June we supported a kids walk against racism from Lordship Rec to Downhills attended by 2,000 people and featured on BBC News. We helped draft and circulate a questionnaire 'Ageing Well In Parks' from the NHS/Council aimed at engaging with the over-50s age group – Lordship Rec is being used as a pilot scheme

Friends of Harmony Gardens continued positively, offering friendship and support to helpers, and have partnered with Edible London to provide space to grow vegetables. They plan to build a new educational facility there.

Dave and Joan continued to help coordinate Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, including a 2500-strong petition for more resources for Haringey's parks and working with the Parks service on a new 15yr Open Spaces Strategy. Dave continued as the Chair of the London Friends of Green Spaces Network, and also of the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (which Joan and Caroline also recently contributed to). We completed our Lottery/Nesta-funded project promoting community empowerment in greenspace throughout the UK, having hired Dave and Paul Ely to manage it. It has been a huge success, resulting in a new resource platform for Friends Groups, www.parkscommunity.org.uk

2021 marks the 20th year of the Friends and we aim to have an event to celebrate in June.

Open discussion on volunteering. On the screen was a 2019 Friends activities map of the Rec with areas marked where there are volunteering opportunities to get involved in.

D. said he had seen people in the spinney, and didn't realise how much else was going on. He lives very near, and had been looking online at volunteering opportunities, where he found a link to us.

J. had spent time in the Rec (which she would not have done prior to Covid) and searched for a way to contact the Friends. Having worked in communications, she is very interested in analysing how people find out about the Friends and helping us improve our visibility and what we have to offer. We discussed ways of using the membership list, website and social media to stimulate more participation and her suggestions will be very useful – we agreed to consider doing a Questionnaire to all members

A Friends walkabout day to highlight volunteering had been planned for 2020, we hope to actually carry this out as soon as practicable.

Louise described working and learning with Ruth in Harmony Gardens. Part of the space is being used for food-growing by Edible London (this is on Whats App and Instagram). They welcome more help, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.00-3.30 (later as days get longer – also weekends).

Some limited but regular work has been ongoing: in the Woodland led by Catherine (with help from TCV), most recently dealing with waterlogging by adapting the stream and pond as conditions dictate. They will put up a notice to explain this to users. In the orchard new young trees have been planted, often involving local families, and Sally would welcome help as they either need woodchip when it's wet or watering when it's dry!

Joan has been working with Broadwater Farm residents who will be acquiring a space (that is currently a car park for building contractors) for a food growing area within the estate, linked to Harmony Gardens activities. This is part of regeneration plans, and Dave has also liaised with architects over potential improvements to the estate/Rec interface.

L. grew up in the area but now lives out of London and wondered if she would be able to park a car in order to visit; this is possible but with some restrictions. She is also keen to help with our proposed history project.

Caroline (Treasurer) summarised her financial report which was shown on screen. It was actually for 2019-2020. Available funds ('unallocated') for 2019-20 had been very small but we earned about £2,000 by supporting corporate volunteering sessions of Trees for Cities. In 2020-21 obviously very little has happened so we still have about the same resources. Accounts approved.

Elections All three officers indicated willingness to stand again, and there were no other nominations so they were elected unanimously by show of hands. There is still scope for anyone willing to shadow or assist with these roles, and anyone wishing to attend the core group Zoom meetings is welcome.

AOB Joan and Dave met with 2 parents of young children who were concerned about safety of (and improvements to) play equipment. They aim to form a sub-group of the Friends.

Meeting closed at 3.25pm