



Friends of Brook Green

Friends of Brook Green AGM 2019 minutes

The meeting was held on Wednesday 27th November from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm at Dunnhumby, Shepherds Bush Road.

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

The following attended: FBG Directors (Jackie Duff, Jason Eker, Harriet Hewitson, Charles Sanderson, Charlie Boyd, Donatella Goretti, Robert Jennings, Nick London, Adrienne Clarke), 21 Friends; Cllr David Morton; Cllr Rebecca Harvey; from LBHF: Stefan Czedalinski (Biodiversity and Horticulture Officer); Silvera Williams (Parks Projects Officer); Steve Hollingworth (Director Leisure, Sport & Culture).

Apologies were received from Simon Bullivant (FBG Director); Jo Busvine (Queens Mansions); Jason Collins (FBG Director); Cllr Fiona Smith; Cllr Rachel Leighton; Cllr Adam Connell.

2. Welcome

Jackie Duff (co-chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting

3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

These were approved

4. Receipt of Accounts to 31st March 2019 and Treasurer's Report

Copies of the accounts were made available at the meeting and the meeting was informed that a copy was on the FBG website. The key areas covered were as follows:

- The finances are in surplus
- Most of the income comes from the tennis courts, Brook Green Day and the inter-street quiz
- Key expenditure has been £20k on a contribution towards the crossings and surrounds on the Western Lawn and £7k on retention payments towards the Pavilion. Smaller amounts have spent on local social causes and on horticulture
- Funds are being set aside for the 2023 resurfacing and other longer-term maintenance requirements of the tennis courts
- In answer to a question about how FBG was initially funded, it was explained that funding came from a variety of sources including local families, social funds, environmental bodies and the Mayor's fund and National Lottery. A key source has been s106 funding
- It was asked why income from the tennis courts was higher in 2018 than in 2019. It was clarified that the income in 2018 included income from 2017.

5. Resignations, re-elections, elections

The following Directors resigned and will not be standing for re-election: Robert Jennings; Jason Eker; Harriet Hewitson and Simon Bullivant. They were thanked for the role they had played in setting up FBG and for the work they had done in relation to the Green, the tennis courts, the Pavilion, the playground, the annual inter-street quiz and Friends of Brook Green Day.

Livia Higgins and Jason Collins, who had been elected by the Board at their October meeting, were re-elected. After giving a short presentation, the following were also elected at the AGM: Sam Cohen; Emilie Marneur; Irene Rosazza.

Details of all Directors will be available on the FBG website.

6. Working group updates

6.1 Tennis working group

- The meeting was reminded that FBG lease the courts from LBHF and have managed the courts since April 2017
- Revenue has increased since FBG took over the courts & profits are shared 50/50 with LBHF; revenue from the tennis courts is the largest source of income for FBG
- The courts have just been deep cleaned and the lines have been repainted
- The club was recently highly commended by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for high usage; the club also recently passed a safeguarding audit and a diversity and inclusion audit
- The coaching is shared between Courtfit, who undertake regular one to one coaching, and Rocco who coaches younger players and causal drop ins
- Courtfit are responsible for outreach work and have links with three local schools.

6.2 The Playground and the Green

- The meeting was reminded that Nigel Hensman mentioned how tired the playground was looking at the 2018 AGM
- As a result, the original architect, Jon Sheaff, was approached to develop a plan to refresh, redevelop and make better use of the space
- A working group was set up by Robert Jennings and 6 parents whose children use the playground joined the group
- Consensus was reached and, as a result of feedback from Cllr Morton, disability access was included in the plan
- Once finalised the plan, which will include scope for vertical play, will be implemented in two stages to avoid the playground being closed during the works which should start in the spring 2020
- £24k is needed for backlog maintenance and £50k for new works in stage 1
- FBG will provide £20k and funds will be sought from sponsors including the French School which is a major user of the playground
- The meeting was reminded that FBG does not own the playground. It is owned by LBHF
- In answer to a question about enlarging the playground, the meeting was informed that the intention is not to encroach on the kick about area but to use the current space more efficiently

- In answer to a question about the problem of pot holes in the kick about area, it was explained that because of the type of soil and the heavy leafed trees that the grass doesn't grow well in the area despite annual re-seeding. The pot hole problem would be looked into and the meeting was reminded that bookings for the kick about area are not taken in January, February, March.

6.3 The Pavilion Kiosk

- The kiosk café hasn't been open on a regular basis as the owners of Tangerine Dream who run the café have found it difficult to cover costs
- Questions were asked about the opening hours and the products sold and if operators understood the community they were operating in
- It was recognised that lack of promotional materials was a problem although banners had recently been purchased which promoted the café from the roadside
- In addition, issues around planning permission for a canopy for inclement weather were underway
- The problem of people using the tables to consume refreshments purchased elsewhere had been addressed via the newsletter and notices on the plant pots
- It was suggested that a drinks vending machine could be installed
- A key concern is the need to have the toilets open every day, and not just at weekends which Tangerine Dream suggested might be viable for them during the winter

Action: the meeting was asked for ideas which would enable the café to be a viable business proposition

6.4 Horticulture

- Donatella thanked Stefan and Silvera for their support
- 1,500 bulbs have been planted this year, most were supplied by LBHF
- 200 saplings from the Mayor of London's scheme are due to be planted in the next week
- The Friday afternoon gardening club, supported by pupils from St Paul's Girls' School, has been a success but it is hoped through advertising, e.g. in doctor's surgeries, that more of the community will get involved
- The metal fence has recently been removed from the area around the tennis courts. It is hoped that the wildflower meadow will be replanted in the spring 2020
- The quiet area on the south side of the tennis courts will be developed during the coming year
- Donatella was congratulated for winning 1st prize in a recent LBHF community garden competition. The prize, £170 in vouchers from W6 Garden Centre, will be used to buy more bulbs for the Green.

6.5 Trees

- The Green is now managed by LBHF as the partnership with LBKC has ended. Stefan Czeladzinski has remained with LBHF manages the Green with Silvera Williams.
- A tree schedule of work has been agreed for the Green in conjunction with LBHF. The work will be undertaken by Red Squirrel and will be for trees on the south side of the “kick-about area”, the northwest corner of the playground and the north side of the tennis courts. It will lighten the trees to improve their health through greater air flow and improve daylight onto the Green. In the years ahead there will be a rolling program to look after all the trees on the green.
- Mark Waters at LBHF remains responsible for street trees, and when these are replaced that they are not to have too large a potential canopy and will not be fruit trees that pollute the streets.
- The possibility of a bore hole, which will facilitate watering the Green, is being explored

6.6 Events

6.6.1 Brook Green Day

- This was another successful day with excellent weather and a great community spirit
- The date for next year will be either Saturday 12th or 19th September
- Local sponsors were thanked for their on-going support of the day.
- A question was asked about re-introducing the dog show. This is being considered.

6.6.2 The inter-street Quiz

- The quiz was another successful event which brought the community together in a friendly but competitive environment. The winners this year were Phoenix Lodge Mansions
- The 2020 quiz will be held on Thursday 13th February. Finlay Brewer were thanked once again for their sponsorship of the quiz.

The chair asked the meeting to think about ideas about other events. These should be sent to hello@friendsofbrookgreen.org

7. Open discussion

- It was suggested that FBG should promote its activities more widely e.g. in Tesco via the community notice board
- The FBG secretary mentioned the new leaflets, which promoted FBG activities were available from display units near the tennis courts. Copies were made available at the meeting.
- The problems around the closing of Hammersmith Bridge were discussed. Cllr Morton agreed to provide an update on developments.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8 pm. Everyone was thanked for attending.