

Minutes of the meeting of the Friends of Downhills Park Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28 April 2019, 4pm, Downhills Park café

Friends: Matthew Battersby, Chris Currie, Neri Gun, Sylvia Oland, Clare Parry, Jonathan Ringshall, Mick Savage, Jehan Shah, Rod Wells, Brenda Whittle, Stephen Whittle

Council: Stephen Crabtree (part), Seema Chandawi (part)

1. **Minutes:** minutes of the AGM held on 29 April 2018 were approved.
2. **Elections:**
 - 2.1. **Chair:** Jehan shah agreed to be elected to the role of Chair of the Friends of Downhills Park. This was proposed by Stephen Whittle and seconded by Sylvia Oland
 - 2.2. **Treasurer:** Sylvia Oland agreed to continue as Treasurer of the Friends of Downhills Park. She was proposed by Stephen Whittle and seconded by Clare Parry.
 - 2.3. **Secretary:** Clare Parry agreed to continue as Secretary of the Friends of Downhills Park. She was proposed by Sylvia Oland and seconded by Chris Currie.
 - 2.4. **Website:** Chris Currie agreed to continue to maintain the website on behalf of the Friends of Downhills Park. It was noted that the offer from the Friends of Downhills Park to cover the related costs for website hosting continues to stand.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Sylvia presented the Treasurer's Report noting that the main monies received and paid during the financial year ending 31 March 2019 were for Art in the Park.
4. **Secretary's Report:** Clare gave an overview of some of the key events and activities of the Friends of Downhills Park that had taken place during the year noting that:
 - We had welcomed new members to the Friends of Downhills Park in the year
 - We had lost one of our long term supporters with the death of Ray Swain
 - Held another well attended Art in the Park event on 22 July 2018
 - Held our usual bulb planting and litter picking event and an additional tree planting event when we planted 50 whips secured through the Lord Mayors initiative
 - Developed the Downhills Park Pledge which all prospective Councillors had signed up to in the run up to the West Green by-election
 - Continued to regularly attend and contribute to the Haringey Parks Forum meetings
 - Contributed to a successful consultation process leading to the installation of outdoor gym equipment
 - Participated in volunteering days led by TCV in the pond area – although the pond still needs further work
 - The Green Flag was withdrawn following a mystery shop, in the end however this led to works being undertaken in the park to improve it.
 - Developed good working relationships with new parks team members: Glynis, Stephen & Stuart

- The café continues to be a very integral part of the park & Neri was thanked for all her hard work
- Although not in the park, the restoration of the War Memorial was noted & Ray's role in relentlessly pursuing this was acknowledged.

There was a vote of thanks for the Treasurer's & Secretary's the work undertaken in the last year.

This concluded the business of the 2019 Friends of Downhills Park Annual General Meeting.

The meeting continued, Chaired by Jehan and covered the following agenda items: .

5. Minutes: minutes of the Friends of Downhills Park meeting held on 10 March 2019 were agreed.

6. Park events

- **The Wind in the Willows: Saturday 22 June, 2pm:** fliers will be available for delivery in late May. These will be delivered to streets surrounding the park & local schools, Matt, Jehan & Mick agreed to get these delivered to local schools: Harris, Chestnuts & Willows & The Brook. This event is being put on by Quantum Theatre. A small grant application will be submitted for £200 to cover the VAT that the Friends of Downhills Park will pay for the event.
- **Art in the Park: Sunday 21 July, 1 – 5pm:** fliers will be available by the time of the Wind in the Willows event so they can be distributed at the time. Again, fliers will be delivered to surrounding streets & schools. In addition to our regular artists we have some new people joining the event this year to run different activities including; kite making, painted pebbles & henna painting

It was agreed that we need to test the gazebos we have and work out if we need additional gazebos, a date will be set for this in early June. Now that there is access to the container at the entrance to the park, we plan to store Art in the Park equipment there rather than in the lock-up in the depot.

7. Green Flag: it was noted that the park had lost its Green Flag following a Mystery Shop visit in October 2018. Stephen provided an update noting the works that had been undertaken to address the immediate concerns raised in the report and that a tender for a second round of works was now underway. He also highlighted the management plan which had been shared with members and asked that everyone shares their observations on the plan with him.

8. Aspirations for Downhills Park: it was noted that the loss of the green flag provided an opportunity to re-focus on the park, the role it plays in the life of the community, the purpose of the Friends of Downhills Park and related roles & responsibilities. There was discussion about the problem with litter; about ensuring the park is secure and is well maintained; about the priorities for the Friends group and using Art in the Park to

capture local views about the park. The use of social media was also discussed. The state of the pitches was flagged and further work is required to address these.

It was agreed we would continue to meet regularly with Parks officers to ensure that we work together in ensuring the park is a safe and enjoyable place to be.

The support from Seema Chandawi and her commitment to the Downhills Park Pledge was noted and it was agreed that the letter from Seema would be shared with the group following the meeting.

9. AOB

- The Wind in the Willows – 22 June at 2pm
- NatWest Family fun day & BBQ – 22 June – organised by the Gaelic Football club
- Don't Forget the Kids – event in Downhills Park on 13 July
- Art in the Park – 21 July, 1 – 5pm (with set up from 9am)

The next meeting of the Friends of Downhills Park is scheduled for: Sunday 9 June at 4pm.