

## Minutes of the Friends of Downhills Park AGM

20 May 2023

**Present:** **Friends of Downhills Park committee:** Christopher Currie, Chris, David, Tracey Clark, Neri Gunn, Gregg Hutchings, Sylvia Oland, Clare Parry, Jehan Shah, Stephen Whittle

**Participants:** Oggie Igwe

**Elections:** Sylvia Oland, Treasurer  
Jehan Shah, Chair  
Christopher Currie, website (with Gregg Hutchings)  
Clare Parry, Secretary (with David Clark & Gregg Hutchings)

There was unanimous agreement on the

### ***Secretary's report***

Clare Parry provided an overview of the key achievements and activities of the Friends of Downhills Park in 2022-23. These were noted and discussed as follows:

- Art in the Park had been held on 24 July 2022
- A performance of The Reluctant Dragon had been held on 21 August 2022
- Friends & volunteers planted bulbs in December 2022
- Friends & volunteers planted 100 whips in March 2023
- Downhills Park had retained its 'green flag' status during the year
- A response to the Haringey Park and Green Spaces consultation was coordinated and submitted on behalf of the Friends of Downhills Park. *(It is anticipated that the strategy will go to cabinet in June & be launched at an event in September).*
- Planning and consultation commenced in relation to the refurbishment of the tennis courts in Downhills Park
- A pilot project to develop a new area of wildflower meadow started with sowing taking place in March 2023
- Clare Parry continued to attend Haringey Parks Forum meetings
- Clare & Sylvia attended various meetings with Council representatives & staff from the parks teams
- There has been continued external interest in Downhills Park, most recently in relation to who uses the park to turn up & play different sports.
- A campaign to introduce lighting into Downhills Park was challenged
- Despite significant efforts by a group of local parents, progress in relation to re-developing the playground area has been difficult

In terms of the year ahead, it was agreed that it would be helpful to circulate a 'list of projects'/'areas of focus' for the Friends of Downhills Park as this might enable people to take part in running & supporting different activities more easily & spread work across the group.

***CP to write & circulate this list.***

### ***Treasurer's report***

Sylvia Oland circulated the Treasurer's report for the year ending March 2023. Monies in and out related to income and expenditure on Art in the Park and the outdoor theatre production of The Reluctant Dragon.

Whilst the Friends of Downhills Park account management process is time consuming and not particularly easy, it is likely that the existing account will be retained.

### ***Downhills Park website***

Chris Currie continues to manage and pay for the hosting of the Friends of Downhills Park website. It was noted that all costs relating to the website could be claimed by Chris. It was agreed that Gregg & Chris will work together to consider a re-refresh of the Friends of Downhills Park website.

### ***AOB & the year ahead***

- Gregg provided a brief update on the ongoing work in relation to the project to redevelop the playground, a meeting is scheduled with the Council for Friday 26 May. Gregg will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Gregg noted that West Green Primary School were keen to use the park to host a charity fun run. The Friends were supportive of this & it was noted that the measured circuit around the lower field & along Midnight Alley provides a good route.
- It was noted that a Green Flag inspection is scheduled for Friday 26 May, Clare had agreed to attend.
- Oggie Igwe outlined a project he is interested in developing in Downhills Park to provide a Community Sauna. He noted that he had set up the Community Sauna in Hackney Wick and shared observations from that work. A suggested location would be to position the structure behind the café. There was a helpful discussion about audience, pricing, social prescribing, wellness, access, licensing & community reinvestment. The Friends of Downhills Park were supportive of further exploration of the idea & offered to help make introductions to the Council if useful & would welcome further updates as this develops. They thanked Oggie for taking the time to share ideas with the group.

### ***Date of the next meeting***

It was agreed that the next meeting would be moved to **Saturday 8 July at 10.30am.** (*this replaces the meeting previously scheduled for Saturday 10 June*).