

Patron: Simon Hughes M.P.

Chairperson: Gary Glover

Vice-Chairperson: Amanda Squires

Membership Secretary: Corinne Turner

Secretary: Pat Kingwell

Treasurer: Marjorie Hill

Assistant Treasurer: Ron Henocq

**Notes of Friends of Southwark Park General Meeting**

**held on 1st June 2011 at**

**The Gallery in the Park**

**In attendance:**

Cllr. Anood Al-Samerai; Suzanne Chambers; Alison Clayburn; Jean Cunliffe; Michael Daniels; Julia Edwards (London Borough of Southwark); Dave Fisher; David Gee (London Borough of Southwark); Ron Henocq; Marjorie Hill; Pat Kingwell; Sharon Lomas (London Borough of Southwark); Gary Magold; Cllr. Eliza Mann; Jim Saunders; Tracy Scales; Sue Sexton; Amanda Squires; Corinne Turner; Susan Vaughan; Christine Wildhaber (London Borough of Southwark); George Witsey.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Item** | **Action** |
|  |  |  |
| **1.** | **Apologies**  Nina Chantry (London Borough of Southwark); Ann Clayton; Gary Glover; Colin Smith; Rosie Thornton (London Borough Southwark) |  |
| **2.** | **Notes of meeting of 30th March and**  Following a minor amendment to point 13 the notes were agreed. |  |
| **2.1** | **Matters Arising - King’s Stairs Gardens Nature Day**  Cllr. Eliza Mann reported that Bermondsey Community Council had provided a £600 grant |  |
| **2.2** | **Matters Arising -Bowling Club**  The London Marathon plaque yet to be installed  Liaise with Head of Sport and Cleaner, Greener Safer team over recent works  Consider putting flower beds around the bowling green | Christine Wildhaber  Jim Saunders  Nina Chantry |
| **2.3** | **Matters Arising - Bermondsey Carnival**  Contact Recumbents cycling group to attend Carnival | Christine Wildhaber |
| **3.** | **F.A. Albin and Sons Memorial Proposals**  After Julia Edwards presentation concerns were raised about the proposals. It was agreed to invite Des Waters to our next meeting. | Pat Kingwell |
| **4.** | **UK Power Networks Cable Tunnelling Works Proposals**  Sharon Lomas updated on the current position. The Parks Section has written to UKPN with a number of questions, including which other sites have been ruled out; potential use of Surrey Quays car park; and confirmation of key decision-makers in their organisation. Sharon also advised that UKPN had formally approached Southwark for planning advice on 28th March and that Development Control had six to eight weeks to reply.  Pat Kingwell updated on Friends’ activity since the last meeting, including our formal written response to the Council; an advert in the local press; a petition; and a deputation to Southwark Council’s cabinet.  Cllr. Anood al-Samerai suggested a motion could be considered for a full Council meeting to draw attention to the concerns of The Friends and the petitioners.  It was agreed that the online petition link be sent again to all contacts to encourage more signatures -  <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/southwark-park-under-threat/signatures.html>    It was agreed to circulate dates for further petitioning in the park over the coming weekends. | Cllr. Anood al-Samerai  Pat Kingwell  Pat Kingwell |
| **5.** | **South East London Combined Heat and Power Proposals**  As part of a consultation programme David Gee presented the Southwark Council and SELCHPs proposal for an environmentally sustainable scheme to supply central heating to local housing estates. One option could involve running pipes through the south-western side of the park. Following a full discussion two votes were taken. The first, on support for the aims of the scheme, resulted in 9-2 in favour. The second, on using a route other than through the park resulted in 12-0 against. It was agreed to formally pass on the feeling of the meeting to Southwark Council. | Pat Kingwell |
| **6.** | **Former Nursery Clearance Works**  Christine Wildhaber updated on progress on the site clearance, which is now complete, apart from repair work to fencing on the southern side, which will be carried out in autumn to avoid the bird breeding season. Residents expressed concern about the delay, and also about the quality of some of the work, and Christine agreed to investigate, including the possibility of bringing forward a small element of the fencing works at rear of 2-6 Gomm Road.  Christine also confirmed that on the future use of the site a report on the viability of voluntary sector involvement is being prepared for Cllr. Hargrove, and should be ready in a month or so.  It was agreed Cllr. Hargrove be contacted to ensure that an acceptable future use is achieved as soon as possible. | Christine Wildhaber  Pat Kingwell |
| **7.** | **Former Southwark Park Club Development**  The former club has been demolished. It was unclear to the meeting what is going to happen on the site. Cllr Anood al-Samerai agreed to investigate and report back. | Cllr. Anood al-Samerai |
| **8.** | **Rotherhithe Caryatides Project**  Gary Magold reported on the successful relocation of the statues to the park, and invited everybody to the official unveiling on 4th June. The meeting thanked Gary for all his efforts on the project, and also the work of Southwark Council’s Andrea Allen and Robin Caig. The meeting also wished to thank Rotherhithe Community Council and Heritage Lottery Fund for their financial support. | Pat Kingwell |
| **9.** | **Park Manager’s Report**  Unfortunately Rosie Thornton was unable to be at the meeting due to illness, but she had provided the following by e-mails:  “Water Play Feature  This is now working, the cables were snapped and the jets blocked.  Water fountain in lake.  A contractor has inspected this and the pump has broken and shattered the motor.  I've requested a new pump and I'm waiting to here back from the supplier.  These 2 features do have regular problems. Looking back on reports over the last 12 months they have regular problems with various issues from failed electric supply, blocked jets and valves and faulty pumps. They are regularly reported and maintained but I know it can appear at times as if no action is taken, but they literally can be fixed one day and break down the next. All I can do is to keep reporting for repair and be guided by the contractors on what is required to keep them functioning.  Broken Sign by Jamaica Gate.  I obtained a quote for this repair and immediately reported to the film crew who caused the damage and their insurers agreed to pay.  I've chased on numerous occasions but as nothing had been done on site. I have taken the decision to install and pay for the sign and to recoup the money from their insurers at a later date. I'm very annoyed by this as the damaged sign on the main gates gives a bad impression on the park and we have the London Benchmarking group attending tomorrow. The sign will be removed for replacement on Monday and the new fingerposts signs will also be installed.  Art gallery finger post signs have been installed.  Repairs for gates at tennis court and water feature have been reported again.  Borehole – an additional unit is to be installed to comply with EA licence, cost c5k.  The park office will be opened up and made more welcoming and the two staff and parks liaison officer will be based there permanently.”  A number of points were raised to be reported back to Rosie:   * Recently the water supply was turned off in the park and there was nobody to report it to * Similarly, during an incident of duck stoning there was nobody to report to * Similarly over motorbike riding * Concerns about the condition of the park after a recent Stroke Association Cycle event   The problem of neighbouring unofficial entrances/gates into the park was raised again, and there seems to be no progress on resolving the matter. Agreed Cllr. Hargrove should be advised. | Pat Kingwell |
| **10.** | **Park Standards Officer Report**  Unfortunately Nina Chantry was unable to be at the meeting, but she had provided the following grounds maintenance update by e-mail:  “Reginald Mercure has been reappointed as green keeper and a new green's mower has now been supplied. Reg is repairing the crow damage on a daily basis and he has fertilised the green over the past couple of weeks. Reg is also keeping a close eye on the watering system and adjusting the times and frequencies when he sees fit.  The new Team Leader will be starting in the park on Monday 6th of June  The dog bin emptying operation is now covered as part of the litter operation so all the dog bins must be checked daily and the liner should be changed as soon as it is starting to fill. This will be monitored closely so please continue to report any  The lake fountain pump is beyond repair and quotes are being obtained for supply & fit of a new one  2 extra bins will be fitted into the S/P playground in the near future.”  The issue of green keepers was raised - we were advised there would be two green keepers – what is happening on that? | Nina Chantry |
| **11.** | **Art Gallery Update**  None given. |  |
| **12.** | **Bowling Club Update**  Business covered by earlier items but Jim Saunders made the point that the problems with the green had made matches difficult. |  |
| **13.** | **Bermondsey Carnival**  After much debate a date has now been set for Saturday 2nd July. Event to take place in the bandstand area. Meeting reminded that the Rotherhithe Festival will take place on 9th July in King George’s Field. |  |
| **14.** | **King’s Stairs Garden Update**  Amanda Squires updated the meeting on recent activities in KSG. |  |
| **15.** | **King’s Stairs Jubilee Stone**  Amanda Squires reported on the scheme to add an inscription to the Jubilee stone. |  |
| **16.** | **Finances**  Marjorie Hill reported the latest balance as £3621.36. |  |
| **17.** | **Any Other Business** |  |
| **17.1** | **Any Other Business - Tours of Southwark Park and King’s Stairs Gardens**  Some people asked if it was possible to re-instate the previously-held pre-meeting walks around the park. From these walks, and in attendance with the Park Manager, it is possible to raise practical on-site matters. A discussion on the value or otherwise of the exercise followed and it was agreed that given the full agendas at our general meetings, it would be best to organise these tours separately. Corinne Turner to organise for Southwark Park and Amanda Squires for King’s Stairs Gardens. Pat Kingwell to inform Park Manager of proposal. | Corrine Turner  Amanda Squires  Pat Kingwell |
| **17.2** | **Any Other Business – Rotherhithe Community Council Fund Application**  Pat Kingwell said an application for a Southwark Park photography competition had been submitted. Decision expected in June. |  |
| **17.3** | **Any Other Business – Save The Pumphouse Museum Meeting**  Suzanne Chambers asked for meeting on 7th June to be advertised. | Pat Kingwell |
| **17.4** | **Any Other Business – Young Friends of Southwark Park**  Pat Kingwell said Groundwork was organising activities and a representative is due to attend our next meeting. |  |
| **17.5** | **Any Other Business – One O’Clock Club**  Marjorie Hill raised concerns about the club being closed. Agreed we investigate. | Pat Kingwell |
| **18.** | **Dates of Future Meetings**  **13th July at Gallery**  **10th August – venue to be arranged**  **21st September – AGM – venue to be arranged** |  |
|  |  |  |

**Pat Kingwell**

**Secretary**

**8th June 2011**