

## **Annual General Meeting to be held virtually – July 2020**

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

#### **Approval of Draft Minutes from 2019 AGM**

**Friends of Kennington Park AGM  
Held at The Durning Library  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019**

#### **Welcome and Chair's Report for 2018/2019**

The Chair, Marietta Crichton Stuart, welcomed everyone to the AGM, reflecting on the fact that it was 165 years since Kennington Park was formed, 17 years since FoKP was established and just one day since London became the first National Park City.

Reporting on another busy year Marietta highlighted some of the year's activities including the RSPB Bird Watch, an inaugural Dawn Chorus walk, bat walks and history walks, including one to mark the anniversary of Chartist March. She also noted the monthly volunteer gardening sessions and the work of Amanda Rew, the expert gardener, whose time is generously funded by one of the members. She estimated that FoKP volunteers had contributed 95 hours work to the preparations for various Awards Inspections, which together with the work of Lambeth Landscapes, corporate volunteers and Goodgym had resulted in the inspectors getting an excellent impression of the park.

While emphasising the positive working relationship with parks staff, she noted her disappointment at the lack of progress on the Capital Spending Plan and continuing concerns about the overuse of the park for commercial events. She expressed her hope that the recent reorganisation of council services would result in a more integrated approach. One area of joint concern is the slow progress in agreeing plans for the restoration of the Dog walking Area (after the completion of NLE work) as is the lack of progress on securing the promised £800k of council budget which should have been ring-fenced to the park following the sale of land to NLE.

Marietta thanked Committee members for their continued work, particularly highlighting the contribution of Marnie Searchwell for all her design work on the 2 new Chartist publications – the final phase of the Kennington Chartist Project started in 2018. She also noted the sad death of Tom Collins, the actor who played the role of the Chartist leader Feargus O'Connor in our celebrations. One of the 2 books is dedicated to Tom.

No questions or matters arising from the report were raised.

***A copy of the full report can be found on the FoKP website.***

#### **Presentation by Kevin Crook**

Kevin Crook, **Assistant Director Neighbourhoods, Environment and Streetscene** updated the meeting on the recent structural changes in his team and also explained the changes to council funding. These have resulted in the creation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and a number of Neighbourhood CILs where priorities are determined through local consultation. The park is

located in the North Lambeth area where consultation has identified Youth and Play as priorities. In addition some monies are ring-fenced to parks.

Kevin explained the council's current thinking in relation to biodiversity, sports management, events strategy, toilet facilities and his aspirations for the park. He referred to the recent appointments of 2 new managers with briefs to help support corporate volunteering and fundraising. He is continuing to seek at least £1.2M from the council budgeting process in order to deliver some of the improvements prioritised by FoKP eg children's play area, youth activity zone and possibly even restoration of the skateboard area. He responded to a specific question about a contribution to play from developers of the gasholder site.

Marietta thanked Kevin for attending and assured him of FoKP's wish to continue to work in partnership.

### **Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

FoKP members had been advised that the draft minutes of the 2018 AGM were available on the website and some copies were circulated at the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Approval of the draft 2018 AGM minutes:

- Proposer: **Andrew Horsler**
- Seconder: **Matt Bullard**

The minutes were approved by the AGM

### **Financial Report by the Treasurer**

The Treasurer, Vilde Aagenaes, outlined the main points of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019 and confirmed that the accounts had been audited in accordance with previous practice. She explained that the apparent deficit for this year resulted from the HLF grant for the Kennington Chartist Project having been awarded in the previous financial year but largely spent in 2018/19.

Approval of the 2018/19 Accounts

- Proposer: **Nichola Shingler**
- Seconder: **Jill Gregson**

There were no questions and the accounts were approved by the AGM

### **Election of the Office Holders and committee for 2019/2020**

The Chair advised the meeting that, except for Kathryn Penn-Simpkins, all the committee had agreed to stand again. As a result, she suggested a single vote for all the committee, which was agreed.

The full committee for 2019/2020 was put forward as:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>
Marietta Crichton Stuart	Chair
Rita Sammons	Secretary

Vilde Aagenaes	Treasurer
Adam Blacklay	Committee Member
Andrew Horsler	Committee Member
Colin Hunte	Committee Member
Marnie Searchwell	Committee Member
Nikki Smiton	Committee Member
Rachel Williams	Committee Member

Note: Adam Blacklay, Colin Hunte and Rachel Williams had submitted their apologies and so did not attend the meeting.

- Proposer: **Brenda Wheeler**
- Seconder: **Sally Gainsborough**

All Office Holders and Committee Members were elected un-opposed

Marietta expressed thanks to Kathryn Penn-Simpkins for her dedicated service to the Friends over many years.

### **Charitable Status Proposal**

The Secretary, Rita Sammons, presented a paper seeking the AGM's agreement to FoKP becoming a registered charity, subject to further investigation into the benefits and implications. She identified two key reasons for this proposal.

Firstly, following a recent discussion with the Treasurer, our Auditor advised that FoKP should already be registered as our income exceeds the maximum level to remain unregistered. Second, that following the AGM's approval in 2018 to extending ways of securing funding, research had revealed that many corporate organisations and funding bodies restrict their support to registered charities. She gave an example of FoKP representatives having detailed discussions with one local business, including a presentation to senior staff, only to be advised subsequently that their company policy only allowed the provision of volunteer and financial support to registered charities.

Gordon Johnston sought reassurance that the committee would not engage costly consultants to fulfil this task. This assurance was given although it was noted that some expenditure would be necessary to ensure appropriate legal and financial advice.

- Proposer: **Simon Keep**
- Seconder: **Jill Gregson**

The proposals were approved by the AGM

### **Any Other Business**

As there was no further business the Chair closed the AGM at 8.10pm.

### **Post- AGM Talk:**

Richard Galpin gave an `end of project review` about the **Kennington Chartist Project (KCP)** and launched the 2 recently published books.

- **Kennington 1848 – Our Story**
- **Kennington 1848 – Another Look**

Our Story covers the local KCP events and community involvement, while Another Look brings together the contributions of Chartist historians involved in the project and the mapping work led by Marietta and Katrina Navickas.

The aim for next phase of the project is to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. Lessons from the 2018 project show that consultation and community engagement are critical to success and that the key messages for any permanent memorial, one of the plans to mark the 175<sup>th</sup>, are that it must be living and relevant to now. The modern charter featured in Our Story was designed to be the basis of any approach.

Sean Creighton, a local social historian, commented that KCP had been an excellent model of a partnership between academics and a community-led project.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the minutes of the last meeting be agreed**