

## Draft Minutes

### Friends of Kennington Park AGM Held at Montgomery Hall Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

#### Apologies

Apologies and best wishes for a successful meeting were received from several members – a clash of dates with Euro 2020s was mentioned in some cases!

#### 1. Welcome and Chair's Report for 2020/21

The Chair, Marietta Crichton Stuart, welcomed everyone to the AGM and expressed her pleasure at seeing people in person on this occasion, reflecting on the fact that the 2020 AGM had been a virtual meeting because of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Reporting on what was obviously an unusual year, because of Covid 19 restrictions, she highlighted the few activities which had taken place including the RSPB Bird Watch, two Bat Walks, the Love Kennington Park Competition and a small service at the Civilian War Memorial to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1940 air raid shelter tragedy. She also made reference to the informal Armistice Sunday event which took place.

Marietta noted that, thankfully, it had been possible to organise many of the monthly volunteer gardening sessions and expressed her thanks to Ruth Morgan, the new expert gardener, whose time is largely funded by a generous donation by one of the FoKP members. She also expressed thanks to volunteer gardeners and litter pickers, including Goodgym and Lambeth Friends of the Earth, for their help in keeping the park looking its best in difficult circumstances and for their anticipated contribution to further tidying efforts before the imminent London in Bloom inspection.

While the number of events may have been limited, the year has been an active one in terms of planning and progress on key projects. Several meetings have taken place with the NLE teams about the planned return of the dog walking area, the fencing, the seating etc; progress has been made on the Capital Development Plan and on the restoration of the wooden shelter which will now house the newly created History Boards. She thanked the members of the Lambeth PIT team for their excellent repair work and the Council for their funding of this work and much of the cost of the history boards. Also, to Surrey County Cricket Club who supported the work of the picture researcher. The boards, which cover park events and local people, will be unveiled in August. Some of the local schools have expressed an interest in organising sessions for pupils around them.

Marietta thanked Committee members for their continued work highlighting various projects and activities. She mentioned her sadness about the resignation of two committee members – Andrew Horsler and Adam Blacklay – and thanked them for their contribution, particularly the technology and website support provided by Adam. She also expressed thanks to the various Lambeth Parks Officers and staff involved with Kennington Park.

Looking to the future, she hoped for normal times to return and commented that 2022 would mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FoKP and 2023 would be the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chartist Rally.

A presentation was made to Adam who was standing down as a Trustee and as a Committee Member due to his relocation. He had been on the committee for 9 years and done sterling service.

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

## **2. `Minutes` of the 2020 AGM and matters arising**

Because the 2020 AGM was held virtually, the usual formal minutes were not taken. A copy of the Recommendations, Comments and Feedback from members was made available on the website in advance of this meeting.

There were no matters arising from this document.

## **3. First Trustee Report to the Charity commission**

Rita Sammons advised the meeting that a small number of additional responsibilities now arose from The Friends' registration as a charity, particularly the need to submit an Annual Trustees' Report. Other requirements such as the production of audited accounts were already part of our practice. The purpose of the Trustees' report is to demonstrate that Trustees have met their obligations in fulfilling the objectives of the charity and in meeting their public benefit responsibilities.

In addition, to the activities already covered by the Chair in her report, Rita highlighted the work done through the year to strengthen FoKP by expanding our partnerships and networks, assessing our effectiveness as an organisation and developing trustees' knowledge and experience through attendance at training events and the exchange of information from organisations such as the Small Charities Coalition which FoKP had joined.

It is a requirement that the report includes a Public Benefit Statement, which the Trustees have defined as follows:

### **Public Benefit Statement**

Despite these difficulties, the committee and individual officers have continued to act in accordance with the required protocols and legislation by ensuring that:

- money is appropriately spent, managed, and reported.
- decisions are made through the committee process and in accordance with our charitable purpose
- the interest of the park and its users are at the heart of our decision-making and actions

The report was endorsed by the meeting.

## **4. Appointment of Trustee**

The Charity commission require 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of trustees to stand down each year, which in the case of FoKP is 2 trustees. Adam Blacklay had given notice of his resignation as a trustee. Rita Sammons was the second trustee to stand down, but Rita sought re-election.

Marietta put Rita's re-election to the meeting, and it was unanimously supported.

## 5. Financial Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Vilde Aagenaes, outlined the main points of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021 and confirmed that the accounts had been submitted to the auditor in accordance with previous practice but had not yet been returned due to their excessive workload. She was aware that they were working on our accounts and had so far received no queries about our submission which was a positive sign.

Vilde reported an expenditure of £2849 against an income of £2805 – the low figures reflecting the fact that few events and activities had occurred during the financial year because of the pandemic.

There were no questions, and the draft accounts were endorsed by the meeting and will be formally accepted at a committee meeting.

**Note:** After some delay, due to their volume of work, the accounts were signed off by the Auditors and can be seen on the FoKP website

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

The Secretary took over the management of the meeting and asked the meeting to agree to the re-appointment of Marietta Crichton Stuart as the Chair.

- **Proposer - Gordon Johnston**
- **Seconded - Jill Gregson**

The meeting unanimously agreed to Marietta's re-election.

The newly re-appointed Chair then advised the meeting that, except for Adam Blacklay, 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
Colin Hunte	Committee Member
Marnie Searchwell	Committee Member
Nichola Shingler	Committee Member
Nikki Smiton	Committee Member
Rachel Williams	Committee Member

- **Proposer: Sally Gainsborough**
- **Secunder: Adam Blacklay**

All Office Holders and Committee Members were elected un-opposed.

**Note:** Colin Hunte had agreed to stand for re-election as a committee member and was included in the above proposals. However, by the AGM Colin had not paid his membership fees despite being

*reminded many times of his need to pay in order to allow him to remain eligible to stand for the committee. He had been expected to pay when he attended the meeting but unfortunately he did not attend nor offer apologies. In recognition of Colin's long service to FoKP and the difficulties of attending recent meetings due to Covid concerns, the Chair and Secretary agreed to proceed with the election as stated in the papers, giving Colin one last chance to renew his membership, which we hoped he would take up. Marietta wrote to Colin shortly after the meeting reminding him of the need to renew his membership and giving him a deadline to respond. He made no response and therefore failed to meet the deadline. As a result, he was advised in writing by the Chair, that he was no longer an FoKP member and therefore could no longer be a committee member. He was given a final opportunity to explain any mitigating circumstances but did not respond. The letter confirming his removal from the committee was sent by Signed For mail and confirmation of its receipt has been received.*

*The revised committee for 2021/22 therefore excludes Colin Hunte. Colin remains as a Trustee.*

## **7. Lambeth Council's Capital Development Programme**

Rita Sammons reported that considerable progress had been made in recent months with Lambeth Council Officers in relation to the Capital Development Programme for Kennington Park. Despite some concerns that we had not yet been given a budget breakdown, the promised investment was expected to be in the order of £1Million. She briefed the meeting on the history of the funding, the bulk of which was a direct result of the sale of the park-keeper's lodge to TfL for £800k some years previously. Despite a public commitment to its reinvestment in the park securing the funding had proved very difficult and taken a great deal of pressure by the committee on senior officials.

The priorities that FoKP have set for investment are:

- Restoration of the iconic 1970s skatebowl
- Extension and updating of the children's play area
- Creation of a Youth zone for activity and socialising
- An extensive maintenance programme including new toilets, improved pathways, etc

The full programme is likely to take 2-3 years. However, as a result of some early planning and consultation work by FoKP, the Council have already established a Project Steering Group for the skatebowl, appointed a surveyor and commissioned contractors to undertake investigative work. Rita Sammons is the FoKP representative.

Other Projects Groups will be established once the budget position is finalised. Representatives will be:

- Children's play area – Nikki Smiton
- Youth Zone – Rachel Williams
- Overall Steering Group – Marietta Crichton Stuart

The cost of all the plans will exceed the likely budget and so grant funding, crowdfunding and corporate support will be required.

FoKP have already undertaken some initial public consultation on two occasions which shows clearly that the play area and the toilet facilities are a priority for park users. A very high level of social media activity by skateboarders shows the popularity of the proposed restoration of the skatebowl.

## **8. Any Other Business**

As there was no further AGM business the meeting closed at 8.23pm

### **Post- AGM Presentations:**

#### **History Boards**

Marnie Searchwell who is responsible for all the design work of the History Boards gave a short presentation which highlighted the processes she and others had gone through in order to bring the boards to their now near final state. She highlighted the selection process used for who to include, talked about the difficulty in securing rights to some of the photographs and thanked Frank Kindred for all his work on the text.

A display of the boards was erected at the beginning of the meeting and members showed a great deal of interest in them.

#### **Ideas for FoKP 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022**

At the beginning of the meeting a display was erected with some of the ideas already received to mark the anniversary. Those attending the AGM were urged to add more ideas as they arrived and were reminded about their opportunity to do this at the end of the meeting.

#### **Vote of Thanks**

At the end of the meeting, Gordon Johnston proposed a formal vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work during the year. This was applauded by the meeting.

Rita Sammons  
FoKP Secretary  
September 2021