

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF CHEAM PARK

held at 25 Park Lane, Cheam on Tuesday, 24th November 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Alan Piddington (Chair)
Mary Burstow
David Stemp
David Stephens
Diane Stephens
Brian Wilkins
Sue Desborough (Secretary)

1. **Apologies** Angela Francis
Colin Peel

2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 15th October 2015**

These were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

David Stephens asked if the **Constitution** had been sent to the Council yet. Mary confirmed that it had only to be rubber-stamped and she would chase this. Diane added that Stuart Gordon-Bullock had confirmed with her that once the Constitution had been ratified, he would pass over the bank details. Alan said it was now urgent that this Committee be recognised by the Council as we could then be represented on the Area Committee. Mary commented that anyone could attend these meetings as an observer.

Alan asked if work had yet started on the new **path**. Mary reported that the contractors had let the Council down and alternative arrangements would have to be made.

Alan welcomed our **two new members**, Angela and Brian.

Mary reported that only one **litter bin** had been installed and she did not know why it was not two. It was to be placed near the picnic tables towards the croquet lawn and near the path.

As regards the **holly bushes**, these were to be pruned back to improve sight lines which are currently not good, particularly as the path is used by cyclists. Mary did not know how long it would be before the **Farmer Memorial** was reinstated. She suspected it was English Heritage that were holding matters up but in the meanwhile, the heap of masonry was still there for all to see.

4. **Finance/Membership**

Finance issues depend on the Constitution being recognised. Re **Membership**, Alan expressed the view that we need ongoing income and that we would need a project before we could recruit members. Mary suggested more trees, some to replace those that had died and some along the Wickham Avenue line, again where trees needed replacement. Also in the rough and uneven ground behind the play area.

Brian asked how we would go about recruiting members. Mary suggested that Adriana had a supply of application forms which she could hand out next Summer, when she would be much busier than at

present. It was then noted that the **pavilion** was still out of action because there was a problem with the drains, so Adriana's activity was still limited. Adriana expressed the wish for a notice board in the pavilion and Mary suggested a simple Facebook page could be created. We could also use the Charter Fair to publicise our aims. It was agreed that £5 per household would be a suitable membership fee.

Alan then asked about **bulb planting**. He had asked for 1,000 bulbs which he still had but was awaiting instruction from the Council as to where they should be put. Mary agreed to chase this. (After the meeting Mary emailed members informing them that the Parks Department had suggested under the oak tree just inside the park gate).

5. Update on Cheam Park Development

Mary reported that the fencing at the very back of the depot area had been torn down and access gained to the allotments. This damage had been reported to the Council and some temporary fencing would be put in place.

Re the **Stable Block**, Mary reported that permission had been granted but formal approval for the building to be leased would be sought on 14th December at the Strategy and Resources Committee. This meeting would be open to the public. Mary explained that the Stable Block was part of the Depot. The original farm buildings had been replaced by brick built buildings years ago, including the Stable Block.

She further explained that all London Boroughs were experiencing and expecting increased population where both parents would be working, so additional child care provision was necessary. Adriana asked what information would be given to residents of Tudor Close or Friends of Cheam Park about the arrangements for building work etc. Mary said that all contractors would be part of the Good Contractors Scheme, where due consideration would be given to local residents.

Sue then asked, if that is the case, why was a **delivery of a piece of heavy machinery** taking place that very morning at 5.15 a.m.? All local residents were woken by the enormous noisy lorry with the reversing alarm, trying to turn around outside the locked park gate and the dreadful scraping noise of the equipment being dragged across the tarmac road. Mary agreed to investigate this.

Mary then confirmed that the drop-off time would be staggered (some members of the Committee were not convinced about this) and also that a **100 year lease** had been granted to Treetops. Five staff parking places would be provided within the Treetops boundary. Work would be starting in the new year.

Brian asked if the roadway down to Cheam Park Way could not be reopened. Mary said that because that roadway had not been "metalled" it would not take the number of cars involved.

6. Any Other Business

Mary reported that funding had been secured at the Area Committee for proper wooden picket fencing to be placed around the "seasonal pond" behind the play area which would be host to much wild life.

Discussion took place about the metal fencing around Cheam Rec and whether it should stay or be given to Sutton United for them to remove at their own expense. Because some Committee members were unaware of this possibility, it was agreed to leave the decision until the next meeting so that due consideration could be given to the option.

Alan asked about the tendering process re the Depot. Mary confirmed that the Parks Department were in negotiation with other boroughs about joint working and going out to private contractors.

David Stemp asked about cars being parked on the grass verges in Netley Close. Mary suggested that wooden bollards would prevent this. He then asked about the foot scraper! (Mary has subsequently said that this is to be installed soon).

7. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at 25 Park Lane