

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Friends of Cheam Park

held at The Prince of Wales, Malden Rd
on Thursday, 15th October 2015 at 7.30pm

Present: Alan Piddington (Chair)
David Stephens (Treasurer)
Sue Desborough (Secretary)
Mary Burstow
Adriana Stringer

Apologies: David Stemp

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2015

These were agreed.

2. Chairman's Report

This is the first AGM since the FoCP was set up. We have agreed a constitution but it has yet to be confirmed by the council.

The achievements so far are the laying of a path from Netley Close alongside the recreational ground to the Tilehurst Road entrance. Work is due to start on 26th October.

Two new rubbish bins have been provided although eight were requested, it was agreed that the extra bins are still needed.

A website 'Friends of Cheam Park' has been set up by Jonathan Pritchard and he is happy to continue to run it. Stuart Gordon Bullock, treasurer of the previous FoCP, cannot pass the bank details of that committee until recognition of the new constitution is received from the council but there may be problems re the alterations made.

Heavy metal picnic tables are to be erected in the park but we do not yet have confirmation of where they will be placed.

3. Treasurer's Report

FoCP have no money so there have been no transaction.

The previous Friends group had a remaining balance of £400 - £500 but, as mentioned in the Chairman's report, the constitution needs to be confirmed by the council.

Stuart Gordon Bullock explained that the reasons for the disbanding of the previous group were that the Chairman and Treasurer had served their full term.

4. Election of Officers

Existing members were re-elected

Alan Piddington Chairman

Sue Desborough Secretary

David Stephens Treasurer

Committee

Colin Peel

David Stemp

Adriana Stringer

Mary Burstow

Diane Stephens

There were 2 new members elected, Angela Francis and Brian Wilkins.

All were proposed and seconded.

5. Membership

The majority of those at the meeting agreed to be members of FoCP.

Alan proposed a membership fee of £1. Mary suggested that a fee should be set with a specific aim in mind, to be used for a set purpose and the amount decided on accordingly. If we apply for and receive a grant from the council it must be used within 12 months of being granted.

Angela Francis suggested that we wait until we meet again to discuss what such aims will be.

6. Any Other Business

Discussion took place about the application for a private nursery in the stable block.

The main concerns focused on traffic, parking, noise and pollution. Parking is already a problems, particularly at weekend and during school holidays.

Mary Burstow gave some background to the proposal.

All pre-school provision up to the age of three and a half is not paid for by the government or local council but by commercial organization.

The building has been empty for about 30 years and has fallen into disrepair. There is so much pigeon excrement on the first floor that the cost of removal and repair to bring it into use is now £300,000.00 and the council do not have that money

Comments were made that this was a case of neglect by the council. The buildings are designated as light industrial and are for community use but should it be used as a commercial facility?

Mary explained that you can go to Cheam Library and look at the Development plan for Cheam where the stable block is clearly zoned as a light industrial area. Other suggested plans for the block are shared use with other local councils (Croydon, Kingston, Sutton and Merton) as a parks depot.

Concerns were expressed about extensions to the stable block.

There were discussions about cars coming in and out of the park, sometimes much too fast, dropping off and picking up children, seeing the opportunity for free all day parking. This will add to the existing problems of the over crowded car park.

Air pollution will also increase in the surrounding area as will the impact of extra noise (from cars and children).

A vote was proposed "Are we in agreement with the development of the stable block as a nursery?".

There were nil votes for the proposal, 3 abstentions and 23 votes against. Alan Piddington will write to the Development Control with these results.

The problems with inconsiderate parking at weekends were discussed. The football clubs do the best they can, asking parents to park sensibly. Recently the entrance to the disabled toilets was blocked by a car. Mary Burstow will provide the telephone number for the parking control company,

Jonathan Pritchard suggested that there should be a couple of volunteer marshals encouraging good practice in parking at peak times.

It was suggested that we lobby the council to put posts outside the disabled toilets to prevent parking too near to the door.

Mary Burstow said that the War Memorial (next to Cheam Park) is soon to be restored, There will be bollards between the memorial and the road and overhanging branches will be removed to make it more visible.

Holly bushes near to the cycle path close to Nonsuch Park will be cut back to improve the sight line.

Tree planting will take place at the top of Cheam rec in November. The date will be advised and local people asked to help.

There are concerns that the park gates are not always locked at dusk when they should be.

It hasn't been decided exactly where to place the new picnic tables, maybe near to the playground.

It was suggested that there should be fencing around the seasonal pond.