

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF CHEAM PARK
held at 25 Park Lane, Cheam on Monday, 18th April 2016 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: **Alan Piddington (Chair)**
 Ian Berry
 Mary Burstow
 Colin Peel
 David Stemp
 Graham Whitham
 Sue Desborough (Secretary)

Apologies: **David Stephens**
 Diane Stephens
 Adriana Stringer

2. Minutes of the Meeting held 23rd February 2016

These were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

There was nothing.

4. Chairman's Report

Alan reported that David Stephens was still in hospital, having come through his surgery well but succumbing to an infection post-operatively. We wished him well.

He further reported that the daffodils that he and Mary had planted had survived and was pleased to see that posts to deter motorists' parking on the grass had now been put in place.

He had received a photograph of flooding under the small swings in the Recreation Ground. Mary reported that this had been reported and work would be put in hand soon to level the ground. Ian asked about the other set of swings which were missing chains. Mary agreed to investigate this. Mary and Graham discussed funding possibilities, such as Public Realm, but Mary currently favoured the Tesco Plastic Bag Fund which was used for suitable local amenities/charities. Ian asked Mary if she could find out how much it would cost to repair the swings. Graham explained that such a repair would cost much more than one would expect because of local government procedures. Alan added that members of the FoCP were needed to help fund various projects within the park.

5. Treasurer's Report

It was agreed that our biggest problem was the Bank Account. No progress had been made on this. Much discussion took place, but it was agreed that as soon as David was better, Alan would speak to him and one of them would write a letter to Stuart Gordon-Bullock requesting that any relevant paperwork he had be handed over. David suggested having open meetings as these would enable us to meet more people who might be interested in becoming friends of Cheam Park. The opening of the pavilion would be a good time to start this. Graham Whitham suggested applying for a Neighbourhood Grant which would help with the set-up costs of such an operation. Colin suggested having a stall at the Charter Fair on 14th May and, to that end, should have a list of objectives.

6. Update on Cheam Park Development

Nothing to report on the nursery, but Mary explained the background to the lease which had been granted to the two foresters from Nonsuch Park who undertake the tree management there and make furniture from the resulting wood in what was the Potting Shed in the Cheam Park Depot.

7. Update on Pavilion

Adriana had sent an email outlining this. Further restoration work on the drains, damp course and ceiling strengthening had to be undertaken before the Pavilion could reopen and she felt that, to be realistic, this would now be June.

8. Update on Picnic Tables

Mary said there was nothing to report on this yet, but she mentioned the seasonal pond and the willow trees which would eventually be planted around it. Alan commented that the grass appeared to have been killed next to the pictorial meadow but no-one knew what had happened or why.

9. Update on Parking Controls

It was agreed that the new signs were working and Mary confirmed that the car parking area would definitely not be increased.

10. Status of FoCP

Alan said we must start planning a membership campaign. Mary another tree-planting exercise would take place next Winter, with 25 or 30 dead trees being replaced and, where the ground is boggy, alder and willow trees being planted. She also suggested another avenue of trees be planted at the Wickham Avenue end of the Recreation Ground which would be already in place when the existing cherry trees died in the next few years. Another area would be down the centre of the Rec. Other projects such as a heritage board to also include various landmarks in London that can be seen from the Rec were suggested by David. Alan suggested footpaths around the perimeter of the park would be good to have. David confirmed that the recent path was very well used by children and their families.

Mary added that she had been approached about activities in the park for older children.

It was agreed that Colin would design a membership form which Mary would copy for use at the Cheam Charter Fair, the Rotary Fair on Bank Holiday Monday (30th May) and also for the opening of the Pavilion.* These would be used to raise awareness of the Friends of Cheam Park and to collect details of interested parties. It was agreed that a logo would be favourable. Mary suggested that a supply of these forms be placed with Adriana for the 30th May.

11. Any Other Business

Ian asked about the Malden Road improvements which seemed to have ground to a halt. No-one could advise him.

*It was decided at this juncture that this form would be dealt with by Colin and Alan.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 11th July 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Pavilion in Cheam Rec.