

Minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
**THE FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS**

St Johns Scout Hut, Selsdon,  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 8.00pm.

**Those Present:**

Chris & Adrian Hyde, Brian Stone, Shirley Shephard, Richard Morley-Smith, Cyril Watmore, Malcolm Macloud Ken Pauw, Ian Leggatt, Peter Underwood, Fiona Stas, Chris Struthers, Pat Crooke, Joyce Atkinson and Cllr Helen Pollard,

**Apologies for absence:**

Sean and Myrna Walsh, Andy Mather, Keith and Linda Sinclair, Cllr Robert Ward, Brian Leggatt, Giovanni Dell'Avvocato, Micky Wheeler, Marion Gordon, Brian Flynn, Dave Perriam and Sheila Childs

**Item 1, Welcome.**

Ian Leggatt chaired the meeting. Ian thanked everyone for coming, and explained that 'Any Other Business' would commence with a review of Croydon Councils initiatives with regard to Parks and Open Spaces, by Peter Underwood, plus a precis of the draft proposals for the new '5 Year Plan' currently being put together by Chris Hyde.

**Item 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting.**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were unanimously agreed.

**Item 3, Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 4. Chairman's Report.**

Ian referred to his Spring 2019 Newsletter. He acknowledged an error in it regarding the date of the last coppice of the western edge of Fallen Oak Field which was 2005, not 2000. He referenced the recent Veteran Tree walk arranged and guided by Shirley Shephard which had revisited many old oaks and estimated their ages. He also described the monetary value of the Volunteers time which, over the year and using the London Living Wage as an hourly rate, revealed an equivalent value of over £25,000.

**Item 5. Treasurers Report.**

Chris distributed copies of the accounts, which showed we will carry forward a balance of £5,121.45. It was noted that our Ward Councillors had generously supported our work from their Councillors budget with a grant of £1,000 for Chainsaw Training. It was explained that our volunteer was in the process of arranging a suitable accredited course. Chris also explained that the Miscellaneous expenditure of £827 was for TCV work on Foxearth Path which had been funded in the previous year by our Councillors but invoiced and paid from our 18 / 19 FY. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Chris Hyde and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks was passed to Rob Shephard for his review of the accounts.

**Item 6. Election of Committee.**

Ian explained that there were vacancies for two further Committee members. There were no nominations from the floor. Ian stated that the current committee were all prepared to carry on in their roles. A proposal was made by Adrian Hyde to re-elect those current Committee members who had offered their names for re-election and this was carried unanimously. Your committee comprises, Ian Leggatt (Chair) Chris Hyde (Treasurer), Brian Stone, Peter Underwood (Secretary), Sean Walsh, Shirley Shephard and Ken Pauw.

**Item 7. Annual Subscription.**

It was proposed that this should remain at £5 per family per year. Proposed by Ian Leggatt and unanimously agreed.

**Item 8 AOB**

- a) Peter Underwood noted that the Grounds Maintenance contract has been changed by Croydon Council. As of early 2019 Idverde no longer have the contract. Despite a massive amount of work by Croydon Council to bring the work back in house the early signs are promising.
- b) Peter also described the work that Croydon Council are doing around their review of Parks and Open Spaces. 6 Parks have been analysed and 'Masterplans' produced for Ashburton Park, Park Hill Recreation Ground, Lloyd Park, South Norwood Lake, Norbury Park and Happy Valley. Croydon Council are looking at ways to fund and run their Parks.
- c) Peter also reported that Croydon Council are developing a 'Strategy for Working With Voluntary Groups'.
- d) Peter advised that there is to be an announcement of a new national nature reserve: the South London Downs National Nature Reserve. The decision to create the South London Downs has been made by the City of London together with Croydon Council. Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment, is expected to ratify its status in the autumn. The 417ha / 1030 acre National Nature reserve covers Happy Valley, Coulsdon Common, Farthing Downs, Kenley Common and Riddlesdown.
- e) Chris Hyde outlined the proposals for our latest version of our 5 Year Plan. She explained that input has been sought from Croydon Council and their Forestry Advisor and that their advice and views had been incorporated into a revised plan which was currently with The Friends committee for agreement  
**Action FoLW Committee**
- f) Pat Crooke reported the poor state of the Queenhill Road steps and a potential Health and Safety issue: Loose gravel at the top of the steps has made the going precarious. Ian agreed to contact the Council.  
**Action IL**
- g) The Bluebells were noted as being particularly lovely this year, a question was raised as to where had the Foxgloves gone to and it was noted by Cyril Watmore that Blackberry is swamping the Hawthorn in Gruttendens. Fiona mentioned that she had recently been 'Geocaching' in the woods and managed to find 1 cache.

**Item 9. Close**

Ian Leggatt again thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at approximately 9.15 pm.

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