

Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
**THE FRIENDS OF LITTLEHEATH WOODS**

St Johns Scout Hut, Selsdon,  
Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 8.00pm.

**Those Present:**

Chris & Adrian Hyde, Brian Stone, Shirley Shephard, Ken Pauw, Ian Leggatt, Peter Underwood, Chris Struthers, Mr and Mrs Wood, Pat Crooke, Cllr Helen Pollard, Adam Asquith, Micky Wheeler and Dave Perriam.

**Apologies for absence:**

Sean and Myrna Walsh, Richard Morley-Smith, Cyril Watmore, Malcolm Macloud, Andy Mather, Keith and Linda Sinclair, Marc and Fiona Stas, Cllr Robert Ward, Brian Leggatt, Giovanni Dell'Avvocato and Sheila Childs

**Item 1, Welcome.**

Ian Leggatt chaired the meeting. Ian thanked everyone for coming, introduced the Committee and explained the agenda.

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

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. They were proposed for adoption by Peter Underwood and seconded by Adrian Hyde.

**Item 3, Matters Arising**

Ian reported that in response to a point raised by Keith Sinclair at last years AGM the nosings to the steps at the Brent Road entrance had been spray painted white to better indicate them in low light levels..

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

Ian referred to his Spring 2017 Newsletter.

**Item 5. Treasurers Report.**

Chris distributed copies of the accounts, which showed we will carry forward a balance of £4,471.67, this balance being substantially higher than last year. Chris pointed out that an invoice had been received from TCV for Path Work after the accounting cutoff date which was budgeted for in the 2017 / 18 accounts and would have reduced our carry forward to approximately £3,500, similar to last year. It was noted that Council had again funded our Insurance premium whilst our Ward Councillors had generously supported our work from their Councillors budget. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Micky Wheeler and seconded by Brian Stone. 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 seconded by Micky Wheeler. 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 Peter Underwood, and seconded by Brian Stone, no dissenters.

**Item 8 Proposal to Revise our Constitution**

Ian explained the background to the proposal to revise the Constitution: in seeking Charitable Status, which would allow FoLW to claim Gift Aid on membership and donations, HMRC have recently advised that the Constitution is not compliant with the requirements of Charitable organisations. The Constitution needs to have a greater emphasis on Education, have 'Objects' rather than 'Aims', further specify how any assets would be dealt with if FoLW were to be 'Wound Up' (Dissolved) and prevent any future change to the Constitution which would make FoLW no longer a charity. In addition the Constitution required updating to remove reference to 'The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers' which has been renamed 'The Conservation Volunteers'. During discussion it was noted that reference to the London Borough of Croydon, as Landowners, had disappeared from the proposed constitution. It was agreed to add, to the proposed changes: ", in consultation with and with the approval of the London Borough of Croydon" to the first line of Objects of the Group. The changes to the constitution were formally proposed by Peter Underwood and seconded by Adrian Hyde. Put to a vote the proposal was carried by 10 votes to 2. The revised Constitution is attached to these minutes.

**Item 9. AOB**

- a) Pat Crooke queried the practice of cutting back the field edges. Chris explained that over time the fields have been getting smaller as undergrowth encroaches. It was considered that the work carried out so far has not affected wildlife, ie bird nesting, and had had positive benefits allowing the wildflowers in the margins to thrive.
- b) Councillor Pollard explained the Croydon Council 'Councillors Fund' which allows ward councillors to gift monies to local worthy causes. She indicated that she would be happy to receive a request for funding a specific project from the Friends of Littleheath Woods

**Item 10**

Adam Asquith of TCV presented Croydon Ponds Project.

**Item 11. Close**

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

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