

The Friends of Littleheath Woods
Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 24th June 2026 at 42 Farley Road

1) Welcome and Apologies

Present: Ian Leggatt (IL), Jeff Bayton (JB), Brian Flynn (BF), Chris Hyde (CH) Shirley Shepherd (SS)

Apologies: Peter Underwood (PU)

2) Minutes of the Meeting of 25 February 2026

a) The draft Minutes were agreed.

3) Treasurer's Report and Finances

a) **CH** reported that:

- The current bank balance stood at £3,334 after the payment to TCV for bench installations and receipt of £145 in subscriptions;
- Grant income from Croydon Council and the SRA was outstanding;
- There were no log stocks remaining;
- £200 of bench repair materials had already been purchased and more would likely be needed

Agreed to pay the ACCS' higher annual subscription rate of £10.

Noted Ian had messaged a reminder to those FOLW members we had email addresses for and who had not yet paid their subscription attached a standing order form. **ACTION CH & IL**

4) Website

a) Some of the photographic archive had been up-dated but could be enhanced by a picture of the current Working Party group, perhaps as part of a "before and after" sequence, to be scheduled. **ACTION IL**

5) Woodlands Walks

a) Noted that, at the February 2026 meeting, PU had suggested a "Summer Walk" incorporating trees of special interest. PU to be invited to prepare details of such a Walk. **ACTION PU**

6) Working Party Items

- a) Noted that refurbishment of the strimmer was in hand;
- b) The "Fungus Foray" walk – Shirley would check with leader Jane McLauchlin that 31 October has been confirmed. Details had been posted on the website;
- c) Renovation of the Keyhole Pond could be incorporated into the Working Party schedule: **ACTION CH**
- d) Remedial action had been taken by the Council regarding suspected infestation of Giant Hogweed Noted. **Agreed** to

leave the stakes in place to identify the location in case of new growth at the site.

- e) **Agreed** that the new benches would be treated with a preservative in "Light Oak" while many of those remaining would need filler as well as preservative.

7) **Developments at 32 Littleheath Road**

- a) This property is close to the Queenhill Road steps. IL reported that building works continued and that the steps were being used as an access point, resulting in some damage. The need for restorative action had been reported to Croydon's "Love Clean Streets" Unit as a "job in hand", as recommended by Council representatives.

8) **Green Spaces Grant Application**

- a) Noted that the original bid for £2,500 had been unsuccessful but the Friends could expect a discretionary grant of £250, probably in June 2026, which would be applied to the bench replacement programme. The actual installation of new benches had been completed.

9) **Relocation of Tool Storage and Log Depository**

- a) Noted that all tools had been removed from the previous storage shed and were now relocated either with Working Party members or in store at 42 Farley Road. The Committee recorded its thanks to Shirley Shepherd for the latter facility;
- b) There were currently no log stocks in hand, but new stocks could be **accommodated** on Cyril Watmore's (CW) drive if necessary. Noted that future stocks would need to be split and bagged "on site" and then transported to a roadside for collection and delivery to CW's house. Agreed that BF consult and collaborate with Working Party members Mickey Wheeler and Bora Karacalik as to the practical arrangements. **ACTION BF**

10) **Potential Transfers of Equipment from 171 Ballards Way**

CH reported that, prior to vacating 171 Ballards Way, Brian Stone had offered to hand over items to the Friends as follows:

- i) "Topso" petrol-driven chainsaw not recently used;
- ii) Gazebos: rectangular 3 metres square, 4.5 metres by 3m, and "hexagonal".

It was noted that Brian himself **has moved to** Atwood House' residential facility. CH would advise BF of Brian Stone's new address and telephone number so that BF could arrange to collect the 4.5m gazebo **from Ballards Way the other gazebos would not be required. The chainsaw has already been uplifted.**

11) Report from the ACCS Meeting of 23rd June 2026

a) IL reported that:

- The next meeting (by “Zoom”) had been set for Wednesday 19th August, when he would be away. SS and JB agreed to “attend”;
- TCV Leader Jane Hyman would be retiring;
- Council officer Alice Owusu-Evans, currently on maternity leave, is expected to return to the office from September 2026;
- RSPB officer John Birkett is seeking to survey the new hotel site for developments in local bird life;
- The issue of “Bio-Diversity Gains” was discussed: such a gain, targeted at 10%, should arise after development of a building site but can be off-set by funding environmental improvements **elsewhere** (e.g, in Kent). Concern was expressed that Croydon Council is not monitoring these gains locally.

12 Attendance at Selsdon Community Fair: Sunday, 6 September 2026

The Committee noted that:

IL, CH, SS and JB expected to attend for the day, by 10.15am: PU will also be in site. The Fair is open from 11am to 4pm;

IL has requested the loan of TCV’s gazebo but it may not be needed if FOLW acquires one from Brian Stone; Audience participation quizzes to be the same subjects as last year (identification of woodland flowers and creatures.

ACTION: CH, IL, JB, SS, PU

13 Woodland Matters

a)The Committee noted that the “Green Grid” policy encouraged the provision of cycle tracks through the Woods, particularly on the Bridleway, but Noted the potential impact of the high speed of electric bicycles and the actual speed generated by delivery cyclists using the Woods as a short cut. These issues could affect the nature of the path surfacing material used on those paths designated for cycle use.

b)The Committee also noted the continuation of theft of wood from the Woods which has been referred for inclusion in the July Gazette. IL undertook to add our condemnation of the practice to the FOLW website and Facebook entry. **ACTION: IL**

14) Croydon Council 'Cabinet' Members for "Parks and Green Spaces"

IL **advised** that the new Mayor has appointed Councillor Robert Ward (Conservative) as the Chair of his Parks and Green Spaces Committee, while his Labour Party "shadow" is Abba Abboa, resident in Purley, who recently met members of the Working Party at IL's invitation. **Ian had subsequently sent her our Management Plan as well as our current 5 Year Plan.** There has been no further contact ~~with Councillors.~~

15) Attendance at "Friends of the Parks" Meeting: 15 July (evening)

Agreed JB to attend on FOLW behalf.

16) Date of Next Committee Meeting

Wednesday 26th August. The Meeting closed at 8.50pm. Members thanked SS for her hospitality and wished Brian Flynn well for his course of treatment and recuperation over the next 3 months.

a)