

# Open Meeting MINUTES

Friends of North Sheen Recreation Ground

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*Date | time* Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 8-9pm | *Meeting called to order by* Sue Burden (Chair)

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## In Attendance

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Sue Burden (Chair)

Katy Robins (Secretary)

Anna Gilbert (Treasurer)

Ruth Gledhill (Committee Member)

Michael Fletcher (Committee Member)

Pam Ibrahima (Committee Member)

Clarissa Fletcher

David Ferguson

Tony Eades

Pat Eades

Sally Wright

Steve King

Nicholas Turner

Sam Ingram

### **Apologies:**

Councillor David Linnette (Committee Member)

Peter Hart (Committee Member)

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## Meeting Objectives

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- To update members on the financial accounts of the Friends Group.
- To discuss the activities of the Friends Group in the previous year.
- To discuss future plans and improvements to the Recreation Ground for the Friends Group to pursue.

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## Treasurer's Report

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Anna Gilbert updated the meeting attendees.

There is a balance in the account of £2199.79 as at 19<sup>th</sup> April, most of which is the surplus from the Civic Pride Fund Grant. The event was cheaper to hold, the memorial bench was cheaper than budgeted and we did not have to pay for installation. We are required to submit our final declaration as to how the money was spent shortly. Therefore, any ideas as to how the surplus could be used will need to be agreed very soon. One suggestion was to use the funds to have signs made for all of the trees in the Recreation Ground, as part of an "Rec Nature Trail" for children / all Rec users.

### Action Points:

- Ideas for spending the surplus Civic Pride Fund to be agreed at the next Committee Meeting.
- Katy to submit an invoice and receipts for her expenditure for the Easter Treasure Hunt.

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## Events

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### Events this year

- Katy informed the meeting attendees that FONSRG have hosted one event since the last AGM. A Treasure Hunt for local children took place at Easter and was a great success. We were fortunate to have Treasure Maps designed by the playground contractors Sutcliffe Play, who also kindly donated chocolate eggs for all of the participants.

### Upcoming Events

- Sue informed the meeting attendees that the Committee hoped to organise an event next summer for the community. It will hopefully involve local musicians, both adults and children from local schools. The Committee stressed the importance of having more community members help with organising this event. Once the date has been agreed, the Committee will send an email asking for volunteers.
- A potential event to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday was discussed. This would be an informal FONSRG 'event', without any stalls or large organised activities but will be an opportunity for the local community to gather for a picnic at the Recreation Ground. Suggested dates were Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June or Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### Action Points:

- Sue to gather feedback as to the Queen's Birthday Picnic.
- The Community Event for Summer 2017 to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

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## Playground Refurbishment

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Katy updated the meeting attendees.

The playground upgrade has been completed and is very popular with the children. The Committee thanks the playground contractors, Sutcliffe, and Richmond Council (in particular Yvonne) for all their hard work on this project.

The condition of the paddling pool was discussed with regards to whether it required resurfacing and if it did, whether that would take place very soon so as not to be out of use in the summer.

**Action Points:**

- Katy to email Yvonne regarding the paddling pool.

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## Flowers/Trees/Environment

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Sue updated the meeting attendees.

An annual flower mix has already been planted by Richmond Council at the North Road entrance, in response to requests by the Friends Committee and an interested Rec user. Richmond Council have also agreed to plant Perennials in the same flowerbed at the end of the summer. Sue is meeting Richmond Council's Landscape Architect on May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the other entrances to the Recreation Ground. The removal of the hedges was raised as an issue due to litter and dust blowing through and damaging the flowers. Sue will raise this at the meeting with the Landscape Architect.

The meeting attendees discussed creating a Nature Trail of all of the trees in the Recreation Ground with signs for each one.

**Action Points:**

- Sue to attend the meeting with Landscape Architect
- The Nature Trail is to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

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## Drinking Fountain

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Sue updated the meeting attendees.

A water fountain has been provided for free from the Drinking Fountain Association and will be installed by the council on an outside Pavilion wall before the school half term holiday in June.

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## WW1 Memorial Bench

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Sue updated the meeting attendees.

Richmond Council have recently installed the WW1 Memorial bench, sited near the WW1 memorial poppy flowerbed and the Friends' notice board. This was funded by a Richmond Council Civic Pride grant obtained by the Friends' group. The map showing where the 137 servicemen who died in WW1 from the area round the Rec lived is

in the café and the map plus full list with all details is on the Friends website. A copy of the map and details of where to get more info will be placed in the nearby Friends noticeboard.

The WW1 commemorative Poppy Meadow will also be here again this year.

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## Recreation Ground Name Change

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Sue informed the meeting attendees that the proposed name change of the Recreation Ground has been dropped, following strong feedback from some Rec users / local residents.

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## Pavilion Cafe

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The meeting attendees discussed the possibility of the café contractors changing. The café contract is managed by Richmond Council. The Committee informed the meeting attendees that nothing had been confirmed but that they would update the Friends if they hear any news on this situation.

Meeting attendees discussed that we needed the café to be more community-minded with community events taking place and to be open for longer than the current hours of 11am – 3pm.

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## Overall Vision for the Recreation Ground

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We are required to submit an overall vision for the Recreation Ground so that Richmond Council can plan ahead to meet Rec users' needs.

The following ideas were suggested:

- A Bark Park (in the enclosed dog area)
- Outdoor Gym (in the junior playground / other suitable location)
- Shelter at the far end of the Recreation Ground

### **Action Points:**

- The Committee agreed to look into all of these suggestions and discuss them in further detail at the next meeting.
- The Committee will also undertake informal consultation with the community as to their opinion on the Bark Park and Outdoor Gym.

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## Any Other Business

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The meeting attendees thanked Ruth for all her work in raising the profile of the Recreation Ground with the Friends website and social media.

It was noted that any issue with trees from the Recreation Ground overhanging into local gardens should be reported to the council directly (as with any Rec maintenance issues).

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Next Meeting

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TBC