**Friends of Grove Gardens AGM**

Sunday 8th December 2024

Attendees - Sarah Simpson (Co-Chair), Andy Ridge (Co-Chair) Stuart Brown (Treasurer), Anne Nursey (Secretary), Louisa Kershaw, Sally Taylor, John Wilkinson, Rob Nursey, Gerrard Raven, Tony Swan, Jane Giesler, Phil Giesler, (Ward Councillor) Charlie Engel (Ward Councillor)

1. Welcome

Andy Ridge opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

1. Report from the Chairs

Sarah Simpson gave the report from the Co-Chairs (see attached document which will also be placed on the FoGG website)

1. Treasurers Report

Stuart confirmed that FoGG has opened a bank account with funds raised at the Open Day in May through a raffle and cake sale. Currently the balance is £xxxx and will be used to support events like the Open Days and bulb planting. It was noted that the Council and Habitats and Heritage have been very supportive matching funds and providing resources.

FoGG has now taken up public liability insurance through PolicyBee, the first year being funded by the Council.

1. Appointment of Committee Members

The Co-Chairs and Secretary have a further year and the Treasurer 2 years of their 3 year terms to serve. Sally Taylor, Louisa Kershaw, Rosie Doran and John Wilkinson have all agreed to continue on the Committee and were appointed unopposed.

Shelley Templeman and Heather Geddes have stood down from the Committee and were thanked for their support.

The following sub-groups of the Committee have been set up with additional new members joining

* Biodiversity and Gardening (Jane Giesler and Tony Swan indicated an interest in becoming involved)
* Dogs (Mandy Stapleton and Jo Gunning have indicated an interest in becoming involved)
* Social and Events
* History of Grove Gardens and engagement with the Teddington Society (Caroline Taylorson has indicated an interest in becoming involved)
1. AOB

There was a short discussion on the trial of leaving the Park gates unlocked. It was agreed that the approach to the trial lacked rigour. LBRUT is discussing next steps at the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Services Committee on 7th January 2025 where the Ward Councillors will represent the strong feeling of FoGG and local residents that the Park should continue to be locked at night. We anticipate that a Public Consultation will follow in January. We do not have detail of the process but it is likely that complaints made by individuals to date will need to be resubmitted with supporting rationale.

Insurance responsibilities for the Bowling Club buildings was questioned. The Bowling Club is currently reviewing their rental agreement with the Council but is expected that the Council is responsible for the building structure, and the Bowling Club for contents.

It was queried whether FoGG should charge a membership fee. However, it was explained that our constitution did not allow this and Committee members felt happier raising funds through activities like raffles and cake sales at communal events, such as the Open Day in May.