

Friends of Grove Gardens Committee Meeting Agenda

11am Wednesday 30th August 2023

Attendees - Sarah Simpson (Chair), Anne Nursey (Secretary), Gerrard Raven (Bowling Club Rep), Shelley Winfield, Sally Taylor, Louisa Kershaw, Rosie Doran, Heather Geddes, Doug Taylerson

Apologies - Andy Ridge, John Wilkinson, Francis Tuffy

1. Welcome and Apologies

Sarah noted that she had the proxy from Andy Ridge

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Sarah noted that she had received proxies from Rosie and Louisa

3. Matters arising

Routine maintenance has now started for the Bowling Club buildings and a difference has been seen.

Action is ongoing to clarify the insurance situation when using the Bowling Club buildings for FoGGC meetings

4. Updates from Habitats and Heritage (H&H) and LBRUT Council

The key contacts for the committee have now left H&H and Sarah is chasing to identify the replacements as the support that has been provided to the FoGGC is very valuable.

The interaction we have had with LBRUT Council has been productive, mainly led by Shelley. Grove Gardens Park is on the list to get a heritage water fountain (awaiting final approval from the Council) and we have provided a quote to replace the railings removed during WWII. A request for a notice board has been put forward and we will be requesting that the very stiff latch on the gate leading into Grove Gardens is repaired/replaced.

We have made contact with the Chair of the Friends of Kneller Gardens and members of the Committee will be meeting with her shortly to share ideas and opportunities.

5. Update from Biodiversity team

Bat and bird boxes have now been installed along with a log pile to increase biodiversity. We understand that a bug hotel will be installed by the Council. We are exploring how we can engage with local schools and youth community groups on biodiversity projects such as populating the bug hotels and monitoring bat populations.

Shelley has drafted guidance for a walking tour of the park, with key information points, that is currently being reviewed by the Council as part of its' broader initiative.

We have been approached by The Twickenham and Thames Valley Bee Keeping Association to place a bee hive on the council owned parcel of land on The Grove. The hive will be placed at a high level and maintained by the Bee Association

We have contacted The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association for a grant of bulbs appropriate for a woodland setting. There may be an opportunity to get further funding for shrubs from the Association - planting will be done in collaboration with the council and their landscaping contractor, although

volunteers may be required. Shelley, Sally and this initiative

Heather will work on

6. Dogs

Users of the park are generally observing the Park guidance on closing gates and removing dog waste. To further address the problem frequent users of the park have created an initiative - 'One for the Park' - where they try to pick up one poo (dog, fox, or otherwise) in addition to that of their own pet, as well as reminding owners of their responsibility. Extra poo bags are also being left tied to bins for those caught short!

The committee discussed the request to plant a shrub in memory of a dog who was well known in the park. Any such planting needs approval by the Council but there was support to discuss with them the idea of a Memory Garden.

7. Bowling Club update

The Bowling Club noted an increase in new members following the Open Day held in May.

They are considering moving their defibrillator from the inside of the huts to the outside, where it could be of use to all users of the Park, even when the buildings are locked. The initiative will be further discussed at the Bowling Club AGM. Shelley will support.

Information about the bowling club and use of the green will be placed on the FoGG website.

8. Social Update

The Committee agreed the Open Day in May went very well with good participation from all ages and are enthusiastic about holding another one in 2024.

We need to hold an AGM in December to update FoGG on progress to date and deal with any changes to the Committee. There was strong support to follow a short AGM with 'Carols in the Park' - it was noted that we will need to get the right permissions from the Council. The second weekend of December was proposed (5.15pm for the AGM) followed by Carols at 5.30pm). Rosie, Sarah, Sally, Anne and Andy agreed to work on plans.

9. Dates of the next meetings

The Committee noted the proposed meeting dates for 2024 as follows, all to be held on a Wednesday at 11am
January 10th 2024
April 10th 2024
July 10th 2024
October 16th 2024

The Open Day should align with the Bowling Club open day - we are potentially looking at Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2024

10. Communications to broader FoGG group

Anne confirmed she will post the approved April minutes on the website and email the FoGG group to inform them it is up.

All Committee members were requested to contact Anne if they wanted to send emails to engage with the FoGG group on any particular issue

11. AOB

A large branch fell from one of the fir trees. Shelley will make sure the Council is aware of this

It was noted that foxes are becoming a problem in the local area. It was suggested that individuals should contact the Council directly to report concerns.

12. Date of next meeting
Wednesday 29th November 11 am