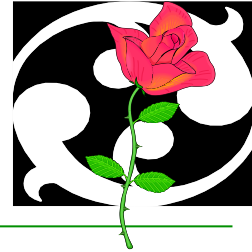


# FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK

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**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**  
**Ashmole Tenants' Hall, 2 Meadow Road**

## **1. Apologies**

Helen Monger, Cllr Ishbel Brown

### **Committee in attendance:**

Teresa Clay – Chair

Sophie Koch – Treasurer

Polly Freeman – Membership Secretary

Laura Cook - Secretary

## **2. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising**

The Chair advised that no minutes had been drawn up, but FOVP now had a Secretary.

## **3. Report on Summer Fair**

The Treasurer reported that the fair was a success. Although the cost of providing activities was increasing so was the income derived from them.

Thanks to new sponsorship of £2k from Winkworth, the fair actually made a profit of c. £2k.

The Chair thanked Nigel Field of Winkworth for this sponsorship and printing and distributing leaflets, posters and banners. The Chair also thanked Aneil Bedi and Alice McEvoy for advice on publicity and arranging the sponsorship and Louise Norwood for sponsoring and organising all the children's events.

The Chair reported that there were complaints made about the loud music from Nobby Clarke's vans and advised that he would be asked not to bring them to the 2013 fair.

## **4. Maintenance**

### **4.1 Orchard**

Membership Secretary (Polly Freeman) reported that 12 fruit trees had been donated by the London Orchard Project and within the next 2 years would be fruiting from June – October. Locals would be encouraged to pick fruit for their own use.

Polly advised that volunteers would be required to prune the trees in January and water them in the spring and summer. A rota would be provided.

### **4.2 Mosaic Picnic Bench**

The picnic bench planned for the orchard is to feature a Jubilee themed mosaic.

Polly reported that the FOVP had applied for funding from a grant announced by Vauxhall BID. We were disappointed that they failed to respond to our application. As the application process had taken place around the time of the Summer Fair, funds for the bench had been raised from visitors to the Fair. As we had learnt from other sources that Vauxhall BID were keen to support the Park, we contacted them again and were informed that no funding was available.

Polly agreed to promote the picnic bench in the next newsletter in order to try and secure further donations. It was noted that any further funds required could be taken from the significant Friends of Vauxhall Park (FOVP) balance.

It was agreed that it would be necessary to have paving around the bench.

#### **4.3 Funds and Usage**

The Treasurer reported that the balance of the FOVP current account is £9.5k and Business Account is £17k. It was noted that there was a longstanding ambition to fund big projects such as replacing the railings, but that FOVP could also consider funding smaller projects.

It was suggested that a new 'User Survey' be carried out for the park. Chair to investigate.

#### **4.4 Gardening & Veolia**

Various members of the committee and residents commented on instances of poor gardening such as: incorrectly pruned lavender and other plants and bushes; inefficient leaf collection; debris dumped in flower beds.

Chair encouraged FOVP members to gather evidence to be presented to Adrian Smith, Interim Head of Parks for Lambeth Council, in the hope of forcing Veolia to replace damaged plants.

Polly reported that tree maintenance was not being done properly and she would contact the Parks Department. Also she would attempt to enforce the council's policy to replace dead trees in relation to the Horse Chestnut stump in the children's playground.

Polly reported that CLS Holdings who are developing the site behind the railway line had offered to sponsor £1,500 for the bedding plants around the miniature village and One O'Clock club. It was noted that non 'municipal' plants had been requested.

#### **4.5 Pergola & Rose Beds**

Tommy Candler advised that her friend and eminent garden designer, Stephen Crisp had agreed to design flower beds around new pergola. Also her husband had offered to donate some money to pay for the plants. The Chair offered thanks for this and suggested that up to £1k of FOVP funds should be used in addition, if necessary. All agreed.

It was agreed that the old Vauxhall Park gardeners, George and Byron, who now work for Veolia, should be approached to do planting, preferably at no additional cost.

Chair noted that the plants, which had already been planted around the pergola, could be moved in winter when they're dormant.

#### **4.6 Gardening Contract**

The Chair reported that Veolia's contract had been renewed until 2014. A procurement strategy for the next contract to be tendered in mid 2013 was being developed. The Chair had made a request to Adrian Smith, Interim Head of Parks for Lambeth Council, that a consortium, including a specialist horticulturalist body, be considered for the next contract.

#### **4.7 Other Maintenance**

The Chair advised that Balfour Beatty have the maintenance contract and that Alistair Johnston had assured her that there was a time limit within which they must make repairs and that this would be communicated to the Parks Officers.

Polly reported that a local homeless charity Emaus, employing residents of Graham House, the hostel for the homeless at Vauxhall Cross, were scraping down and repainting railings around the dog area and thanks were due to Travis Perkins for providing the paint at discounted price.

## **5. Planning & Development**

### **5.1 South Lambeth Road**

Polly Freeman reported that, despite objections made by her and Helen Monger on behalf of FOVP, planning approval had been given to a 96m tall development of c.532 student flats at 30-60 South Lambeth Road. The Chair thanked them for their tireless campaigning which had ensured that, despite the fact that Vauxhall Park is not considered part of the Vauxhall Nine Elms and Battersea opportunity area, the developers will pay Lambeth Council £350k which is to be ring-fenced for Vauxhall Park (with Lambeth possibly taking £20K).

Polly raised the question of whether this money should be used to apply for lottery funding. Other possible uses would be the upgrading of the multi-use games area (including sound barriers), playground and One O'Clock club. It was agreed that the issue should be discussed at next meeting. All agreed that FOVP should lobby Lambeth to ensure the funds are directed towards the Park and projects which are supported by users.

### **5.2 Kylun Towers**

Polly Freeman advised that these 'twin towers' had been given planning permission by the Secretary of State.

### **5.3 Market Towers**

Polly advised that this development had also been given planning permission but as it is in Wandsworth representatives from FOVP were not permitted to attend. Although FOVP committee had considered a legal challenge, if it were unsuccessful they would be personally liable for the developer's legal costs and therefore no challenge will be mounted.

Polly commented that the Lambeth councillor, Steve Reed, had undertaken, at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012, to champion Vauxhall Park's interests, particularly in relation to the Market Tower development. Lambeth Council then failed to comment of the planning application.

### **5.4 Future Developments**

Polly noted that the formal process for challenging developments had been exhausted and in the future it would be more effective to lobby them for the maximum money available for the park.

Polly advised that Vauxhall Park is not included in the new Vauxhall Development area whereas Spring Gardens is. There was no clear reason for this. Polly requested a representative for the Vauxhall Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) talk to FOVP on this issue but they declined.

## **6. Volunteering**

Christina Burnett thanked the committee for all their hard work. She talked of the importance of the gardening volunteers and explained how different streets, estates or buildings, each with their own coordinator, could take responsibility for different areas of the park. All interested should contact Christina or Polly. Details of 'Volunteer Days' to be included on website.

Christina showed all present the green 'volunteer' vest that is available for volunteers to wear. It publicises volunteering and makes it easier for the public to approach and chat to the volunteers thereby helping the movement grow.

Christina and Chair thanked the existing gardeners for all their hard and invaluable work. Polly to email Mickey Penny to ensure that nobody from the council or Veolia destroy any of the fantastic flower beds.

The Chair thanked Ruth Morgan for organising the lavender clearing and involving local groups such as Roots and Shoots and children from Lilian Bayliss School. Ruth advised that a little of the lavender oil had been distilled and that it was hoped more could be distilled next year and sold for profit.

#### **7. String of Pearls**

Christina Burnett presented her 'String of Pearls' proposal for Vauxhall Park to join together with other philanthropic institutions; The Tate South Lambeth Road Library, Wheatsheaf, and the Bonnington Centre in the hope that united together they should be stronger and more able to secure funding from the council and other sources. This is particularly important as Vauxhall Park seems to regularly lose out to other parks such as Spring Gardens and Larkhall Park.

Christina agreed to set up a meeting with a representative from each body to establish whether it could be effective and agree next steps. Laura Cook and Louise Norwood to represent FOVP.

#### **8. Draft Constitution**

The Chair advised that in order to be recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue and therefore be able to exploit the tax advantages, we must adopt a constitution. The Chair distributed a draft constitution, based on that of Kennington Park, to be reviewed by members and commented on at the AGM in January 2013.

#### **9. Any other business**

Polly advised that the website would be revamped, based on that of Kennington Park. Any comments or suggestions should be addressed to Polly.

Laura Cook  
Secretary  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012