**FRIENDS OF
VAUXHALL PARK**

**Open Meeting**

**Wheatsheaf Hall, Wheatsheaf Lane, London, SW8 2UP**

**Tuesday 8 March at 8pm**

**Committee members present:**

**Charles Vyvyan, Chair**

**Helena Lewis, Treasurer**

**Polly Freeman, Membership Secretary**

**Helen Monger, Charles King-Farlow**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Tommy Candler, Byron Green, Henrietta Sitwell, Clare Church, Louise Norwood and Robert Harwood

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

Charles King Farlow suggested two amendments to the minutes of the AGM regarding the item on Charitable Status and Constitution. The amendments were adopted. Charles Vyvyan thanked Clare Church for the quality of the AGM minutes.

**3. Chair’s update**

Charles Vyvyan reported that, although meetings had taken place about Cooperative Parks management and the next stage of the Masterplan/Playground, little progress had been made. Charles Vyvyan also stressed the need for Funding for the park to be initiated to deliver various projects such as replanting the Lavender Garden. He reported that at a meeting with Councillor Jane Edbrooke, our ward councillor as well as the Cabinet Member responsible for Parks, she had expressed support for the park and recognised the need for investment. There is £500k committed to the Park from adjacent developments but we are hopeful of access to other S106/CIL monies, whilst recognising that other bits of infrastructure in the vicinity will have a call on these monies. We will pursue private funding but Councillor Edbrooke has confirmed that this initiative will not reduce the amount that the Council invests in Vauxhall Park. Councillor Edbrooke has suggested regular meetings, possibly every month, where concerns can be raised and progress on investment monitored. Theresa Hoare, Parks Officer, remains our day to day contact in the Parks Department

**4. Vauxhall One and Cooperative Management**

Helen Monger reported that, in her capacity of Chair of the Kennington Oval Vauxhall Forum, she had met with Bernard Collier, the new Chief Executive of Vauxhall One. His priority for the moment is the re-election of the BID in 2017 so a Cooperative Parks management body is likely to be delayed for up to 12 months. Helen confirmed that the management of the parks would be run by a separate body from Vauxhall One and the Vauxhall City Farm.

**5. Masterplan and Playground**

Polly Freeman reported that she, Helen Monger and Charles Vyvyan had a meeting with Dan Thomas, Project Officer, initiated by him regarding the appointment of a Design Consultant to produce more detailed and costed plans based on our work on the Masterplan over the past 18 months. Much to our disappointment, the Playground had not been included in the first round of projects funded by the Council’s Capital Investment Programme, as we were promised it would be. The timetable of the Playground opening in Spring 2017 has now slipped. At the meeting we gave Dan feedback about the project proposal and requested to see the Terms of Reference given to the appointed consultant. We are hopeful that the employment of a Design Consultant will produce some tangible result of all the work put into this project so far. The intention is to let the contract by the end of March, to have completed recommendations by end of July and for tenders for work to be in place by the end of September.

Michael Keane, of the Vauxhall Society and Oval Partnership reported that, in a similar situation, they had taken control of the project and achieved delivery.

**6. Forthcoming Events**

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on 19 March with registration at 10.30am for an 11am start. Polly Freeman asked that offers of help on the day be sent to her or Louise Norwood, who is organising the event. Volunteers were called for to put up posters and steward on the day.

The Summer Fair will take place on 26 June from 2-5pm. Polly Freeman reported that a wide range of attactions had been booked and that the cost of the fair is currently £3500. These costs will be recouped through taking fares for some of the rides, charging for stalls at the fair and through sponsorship by Winkworth Kennington, who have once again agreed to sponsor the fair. The sponsorship not only includes £2000 towards the cost of the fair but also the cost of the banners (displayed on the park railings), photocopying the posters and leaflets for the events. Heartfelt thanks are recorded for Nigel Field, manager of the Kennington branch of Winkworth for his support for our fair in particular and the local community as a whole

**7. Report on Maintenance**

Polly Freeman reported that a walkabout had taken place on 7 March with Theresa Hoare, Parks Officer. Repairs needed to the playground gate and the removal of the gas box by the Fentiman Road entrance are being prioritised by her. We were pleased that the plinth for the Fawcett Plaque, paid for by Environment Impact Fees from events held in Vauxhall Park, has now been installed. The plaque should now be easier to read and more noticeable in the park. It was suggested that Community Payback could cut the tall grasses around the lavender garden as part of their work in the park. There are 40 trees which have been identified as needing work and 5 trees which need immediate attention. There are now two tree surgeons working across the whole of the borough but Theresa Hoare is aware of the urgency of this work. Polly Freeman also reported that she had raised the poor standard of grass cutting on the central grassy area where too low a cut had been done, and the persistence of some drivers in the park driving over the grass

The maintenance of the Park will be carried out by Lambeth’s in-house staff when the Veolia contract comes to an end on 1 April. Vauxhall Park will continue to be locked and unlocked. Veolia’s current workforce will be re-employed by Lambeth to provide park maintenance.

**8. Proposals for a New Constitution and Charitable Status**

A new constitution has been adopted and charitable status, which was applied for in January, has now been approved, subject to a few minor alterations to our application. Thanks are recorded to Charles King-Farlow for his invaluable help in this matter

**9. AOB**

Charles Vyvyan reported that Lambeth Council is encouraging groups such as the FOVP to ‘reach out into the community’. He suggested that a sub-committee be formed to do this. It was agreed that a leaflet should be distributed explaining about the financial situation facing the park and asking local people, who benefit from the Park, to contribute to it. Our new Charitable status will make these contributions more valuable now that Gift Aid can be reclaimed. Charles Vyvyan will approach a resident of Richborne Terrace, to help us in this matter. Volunteers were invited to join this committee

Michael Keane reported that the landscaping of the Oval Triangle will include a piece of public art sculpted by Peter Randall Page. This will be funded by TFL. He invited people to take part in the design consultation (vauxhallcs@gmail.com)