

**FRIENDS OF  
VAUXHALL PARK**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Vauxhall Park AGM held on Saturday 7 November 2020 at 11 a.m. via Zoom.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Trustees/Committee Members in attendance |  | Friends Present |
| Charles Vyvyan (Chair) |  | Mandy Knight (Secretary) |
| Polly Freeman |  | Rob Kelly (Project Office, Lambeth Council), |
| Louise Norwood |  | Pauline McAlpine |
| Ch/arles King-Farlow |  | Robert Harwood |
| Clare Church |  | Liz Vyvyan |
| Faith Boardman |  | Dudley Winterbottom |
| Tessa King-Farlow (Co-opted) |  | Lyn Woodcraft |
| John Roome |  | Andrew Prentiss |

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

Charles Vyvyan welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly Rob Kelly from Lambeth Council who the Friends are most grateful to, Lyn Woodcraft who will be joining us as Treasurer following Helena Lewis’ move to Norfolk, Mandy Knight who took on the secretary role and Dudley Winterbottom who is joining the committee as an observer for one year.

Apologies were received from Councillor Claire Holland, Helena Lewis, Robert Pool, Helen Monger, Mathew Gwyther, Stephen and Alice Munro-Ferguson, Jane Wenlock, and Anne Rogers.

CKF asked for the minutes to record the agreement of those present in favour of continuing the meeting in Zoom and that the decisions taken at this meeting are as binding as those taken in a physical meeting.

**2 Minutes of the last AGM held on Saturday 6 April 2019 and Matters Arising**

There were a couple of minor amendments made to the minutes: Matthew Gwyther was elected at that meeting so he should be an attendee, not a committee member. Also, Louise Norwood is down as an attendee and committee member when she should just be a committee member. These amendments were agreed.

No matters were arising that are not already included in the agenda.

**3 Vauxhall Park Review**

Charles Vyvyan reported that at the last AGM (April 2019) that the work would commence around the beginning of May. The discovery of asbestos in some areas of the ground caused delays. The appearance of Lee Turner of Idverde led to the project being taken forward even during lockdown. Lee Turner and Rob Kelly have taken seriously the issues raised by the FOVP Committee. The South Lambeth Railings will be completed by the end of November. Rob Kelly reported the supplier had a problem with the painting of the railings, but this has now been resolved and the rest of the railings will be on-site by 19 November, by which date most of the outstanding work will have been completed and snags sorted.

The Tennis Court contract has started and will run over the next eight weeks.

Charles Vyvyan noted the friends fortnightly zoom or physical meetings with Rob Kelly and on occasion with Lee Turner and Joe Todd of Turkington Martin as well as the impact of Tessa King-Farlow and John Roome in the design and planting of the beds and Polly for all her hard work including the redesign of the lavender beds, the Sundial and the mosaic in the fountain.

Charles Vyvyan stated that the budget for the park was £1.5m but there is some concern over Phase 2, the redevelopment of the One o’clock club as explained further under item 8.

The following queries were raised:

**Water Pump**: Robert Harwood asked if the water pump would be turned back on. Robert Kelley replied that Lambeth Council switches off ornamental and drinking fountains in the winter. Charles Vyvyan asked Robert Kelly that the pump is in working order for the switch on next year.

**Locking of the Park Gates**: Robert Harwood asked if the gates were going to be locked at night. It was explained that this issue comes under Kevin Crook at Lambeth Council and that the gates will continue to be locked in the time being.

**Dog Area:** Pauline McAlpine asked if the gate between the two sections of the dog area could have a lock, as some of the big dogs can nudge the gate open. Rob Kelly explained the gate could not be locked as it would be a safety issue but would check if the tension of the gate could be tightened.

**Children’s Area**: the issue of tightening the entrance gate was raised. Rob Kelly said the tension of the gates is regulated by British Standards but again he would check it has been set at the right level.

A further couple of questions had been received by email from Alice and Stephen Munro-Ferguson, who were unable to attend the meeting:

**Cycling**: If the park does not allow cyclists to come through then the signs need to be much more prominent than they are now. There are "no cycling" signs on the front entrances, but they are hardly noticeable. CV said there will be additional signage on no cycling.

**Dogs off the lead**: A lot of dog owners let their dogs off the lead in the main areas of the park.  Now that we have splendid new dog runs this should be actively discouraged again by appropriate signage. Polly Freeman explained that under Council bye laws, dogs are allowed off the lead, but owners must control them. Dogs are not allowed in the Playground or the Fawcett Garden. She expressed the hope that the irresponsible behaviour by a small minotiry of dog owners would not change this current situation.

**4 Membership**

PF reported on behalf of Anne Rogers, who was unable to be present. The Friends of Vauxhall Park has 65 members at present and Anne Is chasing up previous members who have not renewed. The Summer Fair used to be a good way to recruit new members, but as it has not been possible to hold for a couple of years, this has led to a drop in subscriptions.

**5. Treasurer’s Report and Accounts**

Charles King Farlow spoke on behalf of Helena Lewis who was unable to attend. He started by thanking Helena for her many years’ service as Treasurer. In the year ended 2019 subscriptions were down, but donations were up. Particularly noticeable is that the income from the sales of the lavender oil of £1,807 was included in the accounts for the first time. The bank balance was £39,000. Some of this money was originally allocated to pay for the mosaic in the fountain but this cost was met by Lambeth Council. The FOVP committee had decided that rather than undertaking another project, they should wait and see where the money could be used and ask the Friends for their views.

**6 Election of Officers, Committee Members and Trustees for 2020/2021**

Charles King-Farlow explained that under the constitution, at the end of each AGM, three trustees must retire. But on this occasion, three trustees wish to stand down, the chairman, Charles Vyvyan, the Treasurer, Helena Lewis, and Clare Church. There is, therefore, no need for any ballot. However, we do have one new trustee for election, Lyn Woodcraft and also Tessa King- Farlow who has been co-opted onto the committee since the last AGM.

Charles King-Farlow proposed Lyn Woodcraft as a trustee, this was seconded by Liz Vyvyan and Lyn was duly elected.

Charles Vyvyan proposed Tessa King-Farlow as a trustee, this was seconded by Louise Norwod and agreed.

The trustees/committee members for year 2020/2021 are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| John Roome  (Chair) | Polly Freeman | Tessa King-Farlow | Dudley Winterbottom (observer) |
| Lyn Woodcraft (Treasurer) | Louise Norwood | Faith Boardman |  |
| Charles King-Farlow | Matthew Gwyther |  |  |

In addition Anne Rogers was re-appointed as Membership Secretary (ex-officio).

Charles King-Farlow stated that there are still vacancies and asked friends to get in touch with John Roome, who was taking over as Chairman at the end of this meeting at the if they wanted to join. .

Charles Vyvyan thank Clare Church for her time as Secretary on top of her demanding work. Clare thanked him for his comments and thanked Polly for her present.

**7 Events 2021**

Polly Freeman said that while keeping COVID-19 Restrictions in mind, the following are events that are provisionally planned:

* 20 or 27 March: Easter Egg Hunt
* September: Lavender harvest, although too young the flowers will need to be distilled, the flowers will need to be cut off and will be offered to the community.
* Volunteer gardening is continuing through the lockdown. John Roome has a WhatsApp group to alert volunteers of gardening opportunities. Contact [Friends@vauxhallpark.org.uk](mailto:Friends@vauxhallpark.org.uk) if you wish to join in.
* The opening event for the park: Presently looking at the children opening the fair and have a celebration afterwards.

It was noted that Polly Freeman will be leading a virtual ‘tour’ of the Park and talking about its surprising history: **Vauxhall’s Park for the People**on Wednesday 11 November at 6.30 pm. Her talk will be hosted by the Tate South Lambeth Library, to register to participate, please email: southlambethlibrary@lambeth.gov.uk

Charles Vyvyan reported that the new local MP Florence Eshalomi, had visited the park twice in late October firstly for planting of bulbs in the children’s area on 28 October and for a walk around the park with members of the committee on Friday 30 October. The FOVP Committee look forward to her continuing support of the park.

**8. Fundraising**

Charles Vyvyan reported that Lambeth Council’s Capital Investment Programme identified £27m of work across the Borough, of which they intend to spend £18.2m at present. The balance will need to be raised by Friends groups.

Funds for Phase I of the Vauxhall Park works came from the planning gain monies obtained as a result of the Friends engagement with the planning process. Under the current Capital Investment programme. £300,000 has been allocated to Phase II of Vauxhall Park’s improvement works. However, some of this amount has been used during Phase I. Therefore, the Friends need to find a fundraiser. Charles Vyvyan asked everyone to encourage anyone they know who would be interested in taking this on to get in touch. Helen Firminger at Lambeth Council does keep the Friends informed of grants, but we do need someone to help us lead in this area.

Rob Kelly confirmed that there is still budget remaining from the redevelopment budget for Phase II, however, the cost of decontaminating of the asbestos and opportunities to add back to the plan things that had been taken out, means there is a need to top up the funds.

**9. AOB**

Charles King-Farlow thanked Charles Vyvyan for chairing the Friends of Vauxhall Park Committee, particularly with so many other callings on his time. He has played an important role in keeping the communication going with Lambeth Council. PF thanked Charles Vyvyan saying he very nobly stepped in with so many other commitments and led us through the final stages of the improvement works in the park. John Roome added a thank you to Charles for his effective handover.