



Minutes of Trustees ordinary quarterly meeting 9th January 2024

Welcome

Present: Richard Bartholomew, Nick Dimant (Deputy Chair), Arlette Garcia, Karen Goodman (Treasurer), Suzanne King (Chair)

Apologies: Danny Rich, Samuel Levy, Simon Duke, Ross Houston, Hilda de Souza

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Accepted and will now be posted on the FoFWOS website.

ACTION KG

2. Financial report

2.1 Current position

Karen summarised the financial position. Suzanne reported that Warren Price on behalf of Martin Gerrard had offered to make a donation of £500. Suzanne has already invoiced. The Board expressed their deep thanks.

It was agreed that the remains of the National Lottery grants 2 and 3 be moved into unrestricted funds, as permitted by the grant terms and conditions.

ACTION KG

2.2 Trustee insurance

It was agreed that we should go ahead with the Trustees Insurance renewal. It was also agreed that in future, if the cost of the renewal increase is less than or equal to 5% then the Treasurer should go ahead without needing to consult the full Board, only the Executive Committee.

ACTION KG

3. Celebration

It was agreed that in 2024 there would be one event on the field for the Volunteers during Volunteer Week in June, and another smaller one for the Trustees in Trustee Week in November, the exact details to be decided in due course.

Trustees to make volunteers aware of the new plans.

ACTION ALL

4. Annual Consultation

It was agreed that responses are needed to some of the issues raised by respondents in the consultation survey. It was agreed that these responses should take the form of FAQ entries which would be referenced and replicated in the next newsletter. It was also agreed that the draft report would reference the FAQs.

ACTION SK



The following issues raised by the survey were felt necessary of a response:

1) More people are commenting on the need for paths for people with mobility difficulties. This is something we have discussed. When we had the path edging installed we agreed to retain woodchipped paths and not to have Type 1 paths as this would be detrimental to the feel of the site.

It was agreed that our position is that we have already discussed this in depth and consulted on this and feel that our current approach is the most appropriate given the economic and practical constraints.

2) Dog mess, dog mess bins and notices about bins.

It was agreed that our position is that given the nature of the site and the small scale of the problem no further action is needed.

3) Overgrown paths.

It was agreed that our position is as in 1) above.

4) Gates - The Drive gate is locked. For info: when the police were consulted they said that having gates on the other sides would mean that people could hide and escape more easily if they are being chased. The big gate in The Drive is locked so people can't drive in unless they have a key.

It was agreed that to discourage unauthorised access and the risk of dumping that the gate remain locked.

5) Water feature.

It was agreed that we should respond that a water feature could be a valuable addition and that this is an issue that has been considered by the trustees. However, there are health and safety issues to address and we would need Council agreement.

6) Growing food - this has become a popular 'cause' in Barnet in the last few months.

It was agreed that we should respond that we will consider this possibility when planning future plantings. It was pointed out that there are already food resources in the copse and Orchard such as apples and blackberries that are made minimal use of by visitors, though of course are of great value to wildlife.

It was agreed that the draft report would be placed on the website.

ACTION SK/KG



5. Current Projects

5.1 Tree replacement

Suzanne reported that the trees had been replaced as agreed.

5.2 Willow tree area

Arlette reported that she would be producing a plan for the area. Richard, Nick and Samuel would be reviewing the plan with her prior to broader discussion. Ideas outlined included covering the area in membrane and enclosing it in gabions which would be filled with bricks and rubble from the site and then the area would be filled with soil and compost brought in for the purpose, with planting left for the autumn. It was subsequently agreed that the plan should be prepared in time for the June Area Committee meeting that would also include a bundle of other proposals.

ACTION AG/ND/SL/RB

5.3 Camera trap

It was agreed that Karen would ask Samuel to investigate the possibility of installing camera traps on the site. Suzanne would also be seeking guidance from the Council's Biodiversity Officer on how to measure insect presence.

ACTION KG/SL/SK

6. Water

6.1 Pump

It was agreed that Karen would look at getting a new plastic pump and explore other options ready for the next meeting in April.

ACTION KG

6.2 Water quality

Nick has obtained a water test kit and will be testing the water at the next work party on 14th January.

ACTION ND

7. Publicity

There was some discussion regarding how much to publicise the site. It was agreed that Arlette would approach Finchley Now to ask if they would do a feature on FWOS. It was also agreed that Arlette would approach estate agents with a view to generating sponsorship opportunities.

ACTION AG



8. Future projects

8.1 Third information board

It was agreed that Suzanne would get costs for artwork in preparation for further discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION SK

8.2 Green Flag

It was agreed that we would look at applying for a Green Flag Community Award next year. In preparation it was agreed that Suzanne would explore the possibility of discussion with Green Flag on our perceived weaknesses.

ACTION SK

9. Dates of 2024 Board meetings

The remaining Board meetings in 2024 will be:

16 April - this is the AGM and will be held online starting at 8pm.

9 July - online

8 October - online

10. AOB

All points covered above.