

MILLFIELDS USERS' GROUP

**Minutes of Meeting of Committee on Saturday 22 January 2011**

Taken by Tim Evans. Draft circulated to committee 30 Jan 2011. Amended & annotated with [developments]

		<u>action</u>
1	Attendance and Apologies Present : Ian Rathbone (chair), Bob Bengé, Emma Jack, Jon Aldenton, Claire Kelly, Michael Murnane, Wendy Reid, Christine Williamson, Tim Evans (minutes), Barry Buitekant, Vivienne Foxley (item 2.1 onwards) Apologies: Cesca Buxton	
1.1	We noted the resignation of Brian Weller from the post of Secretary and from the Committee. Decided to present Brian with gifts of a copy of the Hackney Society's recent book <i>Hackney - Modern, Restored, Forgotten, Ignored</i> , and a custom-made MUG mug	book JA mug CK
2	Minutes of Committee of 20 November 2010	
2.1	Accuracy: Item 6 para 3: Ian was to investigate how much LBH had received from National Grid as 'rent' of park space during works.	
2.2	Matters Arising Item 6.3 (as amended) Ian reported a written reply from LBH that NG income was not 'ring-fenced' but was intended for Master Plan implementation. Since it's not clear to us whether Master Plan will be implemented, decided that MUG must act to prevent money being taken into LBH general funds. IR to write to Jules Pipe claiming the money and listing immediate needs that we would like to use it for (as noted by Ian).	IR
3	Online presence	
3.1	Website. JA reported that he has revised the spec to reflect committee comments and has 3 designers in mind to invite tenders from; that he has bought the domain friendsofmillfields.org. Agreed CK to check that Grassroots funding for publicity can be spent on website, and if so JA to proceed to invite tenders	CK JA
3.2	Facebook. Agreed we should sort out Facebook presence, & that 'Save Millfields Park' is too negative a title. Noted that James Cherkoff took himself off MUG distribution list last July. Decided to ask James whether he will rejoin list and retitle page. JA to contact him	JA
4	Parks Management Issues	
4.1	Cuts/restructuring. Decided to ask John Wade for information on cuts plans & to invite cabinet member Jonathan McShane to AGM to explain. IR to write. [JM declined]	IR
4.2	Homeless people in park. Phone London Street Rescue 0870 383 3333 who try to help rough sleepers into accommodation. (See <a href="http://www.thamesreach.org.uk/what-we-do/on-the-street/">www.thamesreach.org.uk/what-we-do/on-the-street/</a> )	
4.3	Bins. LBH won't act unless there is a health & safety problem. Agreed to continue pressure. BB to follow up.	BB
4.4	Towpath to Cow Bridge: vegetation has been savagely cleared. Tim to investigate [done, see blogspot.millfieldsusers].	TE
4.5	Dog shit. Bruce Irving is looking for sources of free poo bags.	
4.6	Playground women's toilets broken hinge. Bruce Irving has put on LBH repairs list. No deadline so no point our waiting. Decided Claire will get it fixed and MUG will pay. Ditto lock on men's toilet.	CK
4.7	Depot robbery. Insurance will cover – eventually.	
4.8	Cafe at playground. LBH refuses to let MUG start one, insists on procurement process. But not yet, because procurement procedure is about to be rewritten and then LBH will review park cafes. Since noticeboards review started 3 years ago and has yet to result in action, derision was expressed. Decided IR to press McShane on cafe as voluntary project.	IR

- 4.9 Shared use path under bridge: British Waterways is moving railing outwards to achieve widening & is thinking about sightline etc.
- 4.10 Master plan. Bruce Irving still awaiting revised plan. Concluded plan is dead in the water & we should press ahead with our priorities, starting with cafe as above.
- 5 National Grid Access Route Consultation
- NG has held 2 meetings, with IR and with Hillstowe St residents. No decision yet. EDF temporarily closing route 4 for repairs in Jan. NG+EDF looking at using rte 4 for heavy vehicles, though restricted width will prevent its use for the widest loads. Martin Kinsey (NG project manager) is working on access via east side of EDF site.
- NG not interested in paying for park hub but do want to pay for landscaping. Currently consulting Paul Foinette. We should bear in mind the possibility of funding for biodiversity and for community involvement.
- The next major works at Millfields will start in late 2013 & comprise building of the head house for the tunnel from Haringey now under construction.
- 6 Finance Report CK
- We have £900 which must be spent by 31 March, or lost. Confirmed we intend to spend on website and AGM.
- We have £300 to spend when we like. Confirmed we will fund repairs from here.
- 7 Secretary's Report
- 7.1 Essex Wharf Planning Application. (See updates on [millfields] list.) LVF (Laurie Elks) and IR have asked Diane Abbott to ask minister Eric Pickles how he will handle LVRPA's request for referral. BB & IR will press for LBWF to pass some s.106 money to Hackney. Clarified that land sold to developers by LVRPA had been enclosed by developer and claimed under adverse possession. MUG & LVF making submissions in appeal on 2nd application now in progress, Ian attended & spoke at one day of appeal.
- 7.2 Name of group. LBH has dropped objections to change. Agreed to recommend 'Friends of Millfields' to AGM IR
- 7.3 AGM arrangements. VF
- Decided larger venue needed. Vivienne to see about Nye Bevan [subsequently booked]. Time confirmed as 7-9. Ian to circulate minutes of 2010 AGM. IR
- Decided to make effort to publicise. Rushmore school newsletter: Emma. EJ
- Posters: Jon to have made [done], Wendy to post in park [done]. JA WR
- Content:
- report on year: Slideshow to be prepared by MM, JA & ask if Kriss Lee will help [not done as KL declined, MM withdrew & JA not at AGM]. MM JA KL?
  - formal business: accounts, elections
  - Biodiversity plan presentation by Kate Mitchell & TE [done by TE as KM was ill] TE
- Committee:
- Make effort to encourage candidates. Advertise as 6 meetings per year unless/until new committee decides otherwise.
- Refreshments: CK
- Finger food – samosas & similar. Claire to order. Tea, coffee, juice.
- 8 Date of Next Meeting: brief meeting following AGM, 10 Feb 2011, will set date of first full meeting of new committee.