



Clissold Park User Group News

Notes of our March 12th 2016 meeting

Apologies: John Hudson Chris Steele

Minutes of AGM of March 2016

The minutes were agreed

Elections

Chair: Caroline Millar (seconded by Yvonne Hill)

Vice Chairs: Mark Forsyth (seconded by Lee Stacy) and John Hudson (seconded by Delilah Jeary)

Secretary: Theresa Boden (seconded by Yvonne Hill)

Minutes Secretary: Delilah Jeary (seconded by Yvonne Hill)

Treasurer: Anna Gualtieri (seconded by Caroline Millar)

Voluntary reps agreed

Fundraising and quiz: Yvonne Hill and Hilde Oord

Website: Isabelle Gore

Archives and photos: Amir Dotan

Children: Alex Knox

Older users: Sylvia

Events: Rod and Cath

Bio-diversity: Richard Crawford

Annual report

The Chair presented the Annual Report which can be found on the website. Another successful year for the user group. £1,486 was raised from fundraising events and donations. £1,158 was spent on events, the website, printing postcards and publicity. There is £1,486 in the bank account.

In relation the accounts, the Chair raised the question of concerns about future funding of the park. The HLF funding runs out at the end of 2016 and there are likely to be significant cuts to park funding from Hackney Council in the next few years. CM, JH, MF and TB will be attending a special meeting of the Clissold Park Development Board with Council officials and councillors in May. One of the key questions will be increasing income generation from the park. We have asked for some clear figures from the

Council in order to allow CPUG to make a proper contribution to these discussions. The meeting felt strongly that the last five years have demonstrated the importance of having a dedicated park manager, something we campaigned hard for as part of the HLF plans. We would be very sorry to lose this and believe it would significantly disadvantage the park and park users if this post was not maintained.

After some discussion it was agreed that CPUG would contribute £500 each to two new fundraising projects to raise money for a new drinking fountain at the Lodge Gate and a new toddler swing for the playground. We hope to use crowd funding to reach our targets. Delilah has offered to help oversee a competition to make short films to raise the profile of these projects.

There was a request for exercise equipment for older people like the Adidas sponsored equipment in Finsbury Park and a request for a bench in a quiet place (i.e. not on a path).

It was agreed that CPUG would explore the pros and cons of charitable status for the group. The Chair will discuss with Cllr Cameron who has offered her advice. CM to discuss with SC.

The users are considering running a short film competition. Films will be used to promote the fundraising efforts. Delilah Jeary will do a proposal and write to local schools. Timescales tbc. CM to discuss with DJ.

Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting

The park manager was unable to attend at the last minute so no manager's report was given.

Growing Communities

A short introduction to the GC site in the park was provided by Sophie Verhagen who manages it. The site is next to aviary and has been there for 15 years. They grow salads for the GC veg scheme and they run traineeships. The

community garden is open 1 day a week throughout the year, on Mondays 10-4. They would like to open it more but this is reliant on funding. Volunteers are always welcome. They aim to grow local, seasonal, organic veg and to educate people about what you can grow in the city. There are 12 growing sites in Hackney. 1000 households in Hackney receive their vegetable boxes. GC also runs the Stoke Newington Farmers' market. They also sell in the park in the summer, at their garden gate: tomatoes, cucumbers and beans. Visit <http://www.growingcommunities.org/> for further information.

Matters arising

Playground: Swing repair about to happen, new sand also being laid soon.

Ponds: Environment Agency has completed its latest report on the ponds. Biodiversity has improved since the fish have gone, there are also more birds. Pipes in the pond will be sunk with some weights. New aerators for the small pond will also be installed. The report will go up on CPUG website.

New head gardener: Park users have been very impressed. Edging has been done and new top soil in place. Can we put some more plants in the rose garden? Boggy area by QEW: what can be done? Can we check what work is being done around drainage in the park? CM to check Are they doing a drains audit?

Water supply: putting an extra tank in underground will happen in May and there will be disruption while this is being done. Temporary toilets will be installed in April until the work is completed.

One o'clock club drainage issues: CM to check what is happening re inspection pit which has been dug near the QEW gate.

Deer: Work will commence soon on fox-proofing the fence. Foxes will be removed from the deer enclosure and released in the park later in the year after the breeding season ends.

Path: resurfacing has been done

Bins: more bins please, and fox-proof please.

Park Manager: Eleanor Potter will be going on maternity leave on 18 March. We wish her good luck and are very grateful for her work which

makes a huge difference to the park. Temporary cover arrangements are in place.

Dogs: The whole issue of dogs will have to be considered with new PHSOs (Public Health and Safety Orders) coming in. The current dog control orders will remain in place in the meantime.

Multiple use games areas: Council has done some work on it - repaired the goals and will resurface and paint. CPUG has been asked for its views on the best colours for the surface. The preference was for green, with contrasting dark blue on the goal area.

Cafe: Stokey parents discount cards, considering a similar card for older users.

Very high buggy traffic in Clissold House is causing significant and repeated damage and Council is incurring high costs in maintaining the inside of the building to the standard required for weddings etc. Council is looking at whether buggies can be stored elsewhere – possible Buggy Park?

Pump house: there have been some legal delays. It is now unclear when it will be put out to tender.

Plaque on the fountain needs to be replaced.

The Chair will write to **Stoke Newington School** to ask them to encourage students to tidy up their rubbish at lunchtime.

Details of **events in the park** can be found on the events page of our website.

Fundraising: the annual fundraising quiz will be held on 15 May. We will make some fundraising Christmas cards using old photos of the park. We should explore possibility of funding from the developers of "Clissold Quarter"

Next meeting will be held on Saturday 14 May.