

Friends of Brunswick Park Committee Meeting

May 9th 2022

Attendees: Robert, Charlotte, Michael, Liz

Items covered

- Date of AGM
- Officerships
- Mowing
- Fencing
- Summer Event
- Promotion of Park and Friends
- Links to other groups and networks
- Permanent Meeting Space
- Charity Status
- Monthly Gardening Day
- Next Committee meeting

Notes, Decisions and Actions

Date of AGM

- Charter requires an AGM at least every 15 months. Last AGM was May 22nd 2021
- Next AGM will be June 19th at 3pm (all)
 - Outside in Brunswick Park weather permitting (all)
 - *Charlotte will loan the pink gazebo (C)*
 - *Robert will find out if the Edgegot Grove community centre is available as a backup for bad weather (R)*

Officerships

- Michael has moved out of the immediate area. He wants to stay affiliated with the group but give up any day to day responsibility
- Liz will take over finances from Michael (M,L)
- As we need 3 signatories for the bank account Robert and Charlotte will be the other two signatories (R, C)
- *Michael to provide bank details to Liz and arrange signatory for all (M)*

Mowing

- There was mowing of the grass in the wildflower areas on Friday (6th) despite the agreement with the council not to mow. Robert spoke to the person mowing and he wasn't aware of the agreement (C, R)
- We are concerned about the lack of communication (C, R)
- The green netting works to stop areas being mowed but it's ugly (M)
- *Robert has asked the council to refund the cost of the hedgerow whips that were mowed by the contractor (R)*

Fencing

- TCV will install chestnut palings on May 16th (R)
- TCV have asked for volunteer labour but as it is a Monday daytime we don't expect many volunteers (all)
- Robert will be there but has warned TCV there won't be anyone else to help out (R)

Summer Event

- **Date:**
 - Robert has spoken to Lily and the only date the council can do is August 6th (R)
 - Agreed to go for Aug 6th, starting at 2 pm and wrapping up between 5 and 6 (all)
- **Activities:**
 - If we go for August 6th Lily can organise kids activities again eg football, basketball (R)
 - *Liz to put a general request on the FoBP group for ideas and volunteers to form a working group (LL)*
 - *Robert to ask if Doctor Bike will do a stall again (R)*
 - Charlotte can do a bat stall (C)
- **Fundraising stalls**
 - Suggestions: bric a brac, raffle, cake stall
 - Would need donations from Friends group
- **Music:**
 - The band from last year have left the area (C)
 - Charlotte knows a ska band who may be interested (C)
 - Would be good if we can find more local musicians prepared to play, provide a mixture of music (R)
 - *Cliff might be interested - Robert to ask him (R)*
 - *Mark and Rod have played together before - Liz to ask if they would be interested (LL)*
 - We'd need some sort of PA - can the council arrange? (LL)
 - *Robert to ask Lily (R)*
 - *Liz to ask Mark for advice (LL)*
- **Insurance:**
 - Insurance policy lapsed during Covid so must be renewed before the event. Cost is about £100 (M)
 - *Michael will arrange insurance, with Liz shadowing to take over next time (M,LL)*
- **Food:**

- Robert to ask if True Craft are interested in selling a Brunswick pizza again (R)
- Cake stall to benefit FoBP
 - Ask on FoBP group for volunteers and donated cakes to sell (LL)
 - FoBP will provide juice and water with biodegradable cups (M)
- **Tables and chairs**
 - Robert to ask Lily if council can provide (R)
- **Health and safety / first aid cover**
 - Charlotte's certificate has lapsed, will need to take a training session (C)
 - Liz to ask Rod and Sara if they would be able to provide first aid cover (LL)

Promotion of Park and Friends

- We need to make better use of social media to promote the park (all)
- Committee members happy to use Whatsapp but no volunteers to take on facebook or Instagram due to time and / or privacy concerns (all)
- We need to be posting regular content to keep people following - just simple things like pictures of what's growing or happening today. This doesn't have to be linked to a personal account, can be done under the group identity (M)
- Ask on wider Friends group if anyone is interested in taking over the Facebook and Instagram pages (LL)

Links to other groups and networks

Friends of Parks

- Robert is attending meetings for Friends of Parks groups with Dave Morris (R)
- There is a conference at Ally Pally on the council's policy for sustainable parks which Robert plans to attend (R)

The Conservation Volunteers

- TCV are based in Green Lanes (R)
- They used to have a good line to the council through Helena who worked for the council but she has now left. The council are recruiting for a replacement (R)
- Matt Penderghast is our contact. MP has been emailing Chris in the council for weeks but no response (R)
- Liz's employer is supportive of employees volunteering as a team activity and Liz thinks her colleagues might be persuaded to do a day in Brunswick Park (LL)
- Charlotte has experience supervising corporate team volunteering (C)
- Liz to ask Matt if arranging a team volunteer day through TCV is an option (LL)
- Liz to approach her employer and team to gauge interest and support (LL)

Permanent meeting space

- The council have offered a new shared space to replace the Brunel Walk community space. Space would be shared by FoBP, Fountain Area Residents Assoc (FARA) and Turner Avenue Residents' Assoc (TARA) BUT have not been able to pin council down on details. (R)
- Robert has emailed David Lammy for support (R)

- In the meantime council will pay for FoBP to hire a hall. We need to say how often we want it (R)
- Committee agreed 4 meetings a year (all)
- *Robert to request 4 meetings a year with commitment for a minimum time (R)*

Charity status

- We can be recognised by HMRC as “charitable” which means we don’t pay VAT. This will save 20% on most of our spending (M)
- The application requires 3 named individuals (names and addresses). They have no liability but are required as proof the organization is real (M)
- An application was agreed at the last AGM but not actioned (M)
- Agreed that Michael should apply for charitable status (all)
 - *Michal to apply as above (M)*
- Liz, Charlotte and Robert agreed to be the named individuals (LL, R, C)
 - *Michael to contact individually for details (M)*
- Liz is keen that FoBP become a registered charity because her employer matches charity donations by employees (up to a limit) and also donates £10 per hour employees volunteer but only to a registered charity. Liz has confirmed teh employer will still match donations when the employee is an officer or trustee of the charity. (LL)
- Committee members were concerned about the liabilities they might incur as trustees of a charity. Michael advised liabilities were limited as long as the charity was acting in line with its aims and did not take on any debt (M)
- Registered charities typically need to have an income of at least £5K, although the charity commission sometimes makes an exception. Liz felt confident this will be achievable while she is involved due to her employer’s contributions but recognised this might not be possible were she to move away or give up involvement for other reasons (LL)
- Michael noted increasing our income could open up other sources of funding, for example the council scheme for small event grants now requires matching funding from the recipient (M)
- Committee decided not to go for registering at this point (all)
- *Liz will get details on potential trustee liabilities if we did register and on what grounds an exception to the £5K income can be made (LL)*

Council elections

- Isidoros Diakides is now representing Tottenham Central so is no longer the councilor for Brunswick Park. (R)
- *Robert will write to thank councilor Diakides on behalf of the Friends for the support he gave the Park when councilor for Tottenham Green (R)*
- *Robert will write to incoming councilors to introduce the Park and Friends, invite them to the Summer Event and also invite them to meet the Friends and talk about the Park. (R)*

Monthly Gardening Day

- Agreed to continue with last Sunday of the month (All)
- Next Gardening Day is May 28th 2022

Next Committee meeting

- Next committee meeting will be July 4th (all)

Summary of open actions

Context	Action	Who	Date assigned	Due date	Updates
<u>AGM</u>	Provide loan of the pink gazebo	Charlotte	May 9th 2022	June 19th	
<u>AGM</u>	Find out if the Edgegot Grove community centre is available as a backup for bad weather	Robert	May 9th 2022	June 19th	
<u>Officerships</u>	Michael to provide bank details to Liz and arrange signatory for all	Michael	May 9th 2022		
Mowing	Ask council to refund the cost of the hedgerow whips that were mowed by the contractor	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Put a general request on the FoBP group for ideas and volunteers to form a working group	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	ask if Doctor Bike will do a stall again	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Ask if Cliff is interested in doing	Robert	May 9th 2022		

	music				
<u>Summer Event</u>	Ask if Mark and Rod would be interested in doing music	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Ask Lily if council can help with PA	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Ask Mark for advice about a PA	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Michael will arrange insurance, with Liz shadowing to take over next time (M,LL)	Michael, Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	ask if True Craft are interested in selling a Brunswick pizza again	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	ask Lily if council can provide tables and chairs	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Ask on FoBP group for volunteers and donated cakes to sell	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Summer Event</u>	Ask Rod and Sara if they would be able to provide first aid cover	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Promotion of Park and Friends</u>	Ask on wider Friends group if anyone is interested in taking over the Facebook and Instagram pages	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Links to other groups and networks</u>	Attend conference at Ally Pally on the council's policy for sustainable parks	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Links to other</u>	Ask Matt if arranging a team volunteer day through TCV is an	Liz	May 9th 2022		

<u>groups and networks</u>	option				
<u>Links to other groups and networks</u>	approach employer and team about volunteering to gauge interest and support	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Permanent meeting space</u>	Ask council for 4 meetings a year with commitment for a minimum time	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Charity status</u>	Apply for charitable status. Will contact committee members individually for contact details	Michael	May 9th 2022		
<u>Charity status</u>	Get details on potential trustee liabilities if we register as a charity and on what grounds an exception to the £5K income can be made	Liz	May 9th 2022		
<u>Council elections</u>	write to thank councilor Diakides on behalf of the Friends for the support he gave the Park when councilor for Tottenham Green	Robert	May 9th 2022		
<u>Council elections</u>	write to incoming councilors to introduce the Park and Friends, invite them to the Summer Event and also invite them to meet the Friends and talk about the Park. (R)	Robert	May 9th 2022		
