

## **The Friends of Sutton Common Park : 26th Annual General Meeting**

To be held at 2-00 pm on Saturday 30th November 2024 @ The Life Centre, parking at rear of building.

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome by the Chairman
  2. Apologies for absence
  3. Minutes of last meeting
  4. Any Matters Arising
  5. Chairman's Annual Report ( 2023-24)
  6. Treasurers Report/ Membership Report (2023-24)  
NB Please bring new 2025 x £5 subs if possible or pay online.
  7. Election of Officers
    - (a) Chair
    - (b) Vice Chair
    - (c) Treasurer
    - (d) Secretary
  8. Election of Management Meeting ( Up to 12 members)
  9. The Paddock proposal for Cattle Grazing to become Annual Event.
  - 10 Development Management Application Consultation 11th Nov '24.  
New Nursery proposal.
  - 11 AOB
  - 12 Date of Next Meeting.
- Close

Post meeting : Photo session with our local Ward Councillors Rob Beck and Cumar Sahathevan to celebrate the new Green Flag awarded for the Park 2024-2025

### **Foscsp Minutes 25th AGM held at The Close, Sutton on Saturday 2nd December 2023.**

1 Welcome by the Chairman : Ray Leyden welcomed the following in attendance, Jean Haagman, Stephen C Jarvis, Dave Morgan and Antonio Di Angelo. Ray thanked Jean on behalf of the Committee for making her home facilities available for the meeting.

2 Apologies : Russell Bennett.

3 Minutes of last meeting: No comment, passed as a true record.

4 Any matters arising : None

5) Chairmans Annual Report : The Chairman tabled his Annual Report 2022-2023 and it was approved and adopted.

6) Treasurers/ Members Report : Antonio tabled his Foscsp Treasurers Report and Membership Report dated 2/12/23. Noted we have a healthy reserve balance of £84.82 Also we have an existing 27 members due for renewal at the end of the year. Our website Designer Pete Callaway secured website hosting in June 2023 with Go Daddy one year cost £122.26. We discussed the various methods to increase our membership for next year. Antonio happily collected the subs from fellow committee members. A vote of thanks was given to Antonio for his report and to Pete for maintaining the website. The Reports were approved and adopted.

(7) Election of Officers : Ray Leyden- Chair, Stephen C Jarvis- VC, Antonio Di Angelo - Treasurer,

Secretary : Position - Open.

8) Election of Management Committee : Russell Bennett, Dave Morgan and Jean Haagman plus the above Officers as listed.

9) Green Flag status : We have worked very closely with the Parks Team and are very proud of this new first time Award for the Park. We have been issued with a Feedback Report : 2023-24 by the Green Flag organization. The Biodiversity project and the contribution made by us the Friends Group was recognized by the Green Flag, plus highly valued support from our local Ward Cllrs helped win the new status.

10) AOB : Ray with help from Antonio have now submitted our bid to the Community Action Sutton for the new Paddock “Interpretation Panels”:after pre-consultation with David Warburton, Senior Biodiversity Officer who suggested we seek prior approval that we comply with their criteria which we later obtained from Razia Sattar, Head of Partnerships, Impact and Equality, Community Action Sutton. They have subsequently invited us to join their membership which is free. In view of our pending bid, all present at the AGM voted in favour of Foscp joining the Group. Follow-up with Lorraine Davis/ Jackie Parr. Action : Ray

11) Date of next meeting : TBA

### **Chairman’s Annual Report 2023-24**

Hello : We had a brilliant start to the new season with a record **3 community bulb planting events**. We had a big turnout at Morden Way entrance to the Park 19th November with valuable help from local residents and our local Ward Councillors Rob Beck and Cumar Sahathevan who also provided Lib Dem publicity for the event. Also we had a Bulb Planting Community Day with Glenthorne High School on 27/11/24 initiated by Cllr Rob for pupils to volunteer locally and organized by Dawn Fielding, Parks Co-ordinator. Pleased to report the bulb planting by the Pupils in the meadow by the car park was very successful. We also met Steve Hume, CEO, Willow Learning Trust who are responsible for the school and are keen to continue these community activities. Finally on the 30th November 2024 the Parks Contracts Team : Sarah Fowler, Adam & Ian carried out some bulb planting to brighten up the main entrance for the Spring. **A new native hedge** was planted earlier in the year made up of 450 small trees on the perimeter of The Paddock with volunteer help from Cllr Rob Beck and Stephen, VC on the day. This project organized by Dawn Fielding, Parks co-ordinator was one of the items picked up by The Green Flag team in their Feedback Report who highly value nature conservation along with Community Involvement. Subsequently with ongoing general maintenance and mulching we are pleased to report it helps improve soil fertility and structure.

2024 Parks Annual Action Plan ; We were due to have our Annual Walkabout with Sutton officers on the 7th February 2024 but due to illness it was cancelled. However we the Friends Group decided to proceed with the walkabout and we issued brief notes of the park condition and outstanding issues. We later carried out a full inspection with the Parks Officers Sarah F, Dawn F and later Mark D joined us on the 27th March 2024. After the joint inspection the official Action Plan was due to be published by the Parks Team to be posted on the Friends web site which it has done for the last 10 years but we were later advised by Sarah Fowler on 24/7/24 that she has been advised that the action in the 10 year Management Plan is shared and this is the one we should use in future. As we have never been consulted about this change we requested a meeting with Sarah and later agreed to this change but also agreed to continue with our own Annual Plan for ease of reference.

New Flag Pole : At the last “Local Committee” meeting we were fortunate to be awarded new funds for a new Flag Pole thanks to the support of our local Ward Cllrs Rob and Cumar. We later had a 2023/2024 flag raising ceremony of the New Green Flag on 23rd May 2024. In attendance were Sarah Fowler, Parks Contracts Manager and our local Ward Councillors but unfortunately they couldn't join in the photo shoot organised by a professional photographer, Auriel Glanville due to the running of the UK General Election but we are pleased to report with Auriel's contacts the photo and story was published in the **South London Press**. However we appreciated their support of our local Ward Councillors on the day.

We have also been advised by Sarah Folwer that the Green Flag inspectors have once again visited the Park facilities this year and **awarded us a new Green Flag 2024/2025** and were pleased with ongoing welfare of the Park. We believe that they were happy to see we had gone to the expense of installing a new flag pole in a very prominent position and to see the Green Flag flying. We are very proud of this achievement and it's all about having Civic Pride and showing it off to the Local Community.

Meadow Day Saturday 22nd June 2024 : We had our **3rd Annual Meadow Day** in the Paddock with the arrival of 3 very good looking Sussex Cattle. As a bonus we also had a black sheep and a white sheep which were very popular with the visitors. David Warburton, Senior Biodiversity Officer organised the event so that we may learn how they benefit meadow management. Also the following side attractions were available, Join a Meadow Guided walk, Learn how to Scythe, Become a Meadow Creature and meadow plants. Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers and Foscp had a stall with local history of the park manned by fellow Members Stephen C Jarvis and Dave Morgan and were pleased to report they had a very successful day recruiting new members. At any one time we had about 70 visitors and over the day with all the different events going on probably 150+ visitors.

For the first time the Parks Biodiversity Team later organised a **September 2024 grazing event** with the stars of the show being the 3 Sussex Cattle. The Paddock was divided into 2 Sections by means of an extra low voltage perimeter fence fed by a solar panel. They had an in- house water trough which was kept topped up by an on-site Water Container. The cattle moved from one section to the other after devouring and cutting the grass. Very eco efficient. It was very popular with the local Residents who kept a watchful eye on them. It was also popular with our local Ward Cllr Rob Beck who introduced Local MP Luke Taylor to the herd of cattle and very much enjoyed his visit. He said, “ We are hoping this will be a success and they become regular visitors” We are pleased to report that this trial event has been very successful with local residents. Our member Dave Morgan said when the cattle left site a very sad resident overlooking the Park said, “Where have they gone? ” as she was worried for their welfare !! However the good news is we later had a debrief with David Warburton and Sarah Folwer who manage the park, advised they are considering marking the Sussex Cattle an “**Annual Event**” and requested we take it to committee for approval.

Annual Park Friends Group Forum Meeting : This is a meeting organised by the Parks Dept for all the various Sutton Friends Group to exchange information and keep us all up to date. We had a recent meeting on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at the Ecological Centre in Carshalton. Mark Dalzell, Head of Parks did a welcome address and announced the Parks have to make a financial saving of £385k for the coming year. Dawn Fielding, Parks Co-ordinator gave her report. On the 19th March 2024 she organized a visit to Beddington Farmlands which I was fortunate to attend. It was a brilliant and educational day with The Community Orchard Management / Trading with expert help from the Tree Council. We were divided into small groups and had on site training with tree management. Also visited Bird Watching Stations and had a Birds Eye view of this huge site. Finally Star Speaker David Warburton gave a slide show on Biodiversity projects in Sutton which included pictures of our very own, “The Paddock” with cattle happily grazing. Fortuitously I sat

next to James Auckland from Premier Tennis who managed our new tennis courts. We exchanged contact details and plan to work more close together next year.

North Cheam, Stonecot and Worcester Park Local Committee : We have been invited by Amanda Beck, Suttons Community Officer to set up an engagement stall and speak to residents about our work at their next meeting on 29th October 2024 along with St Raphael's Wellbeing Centre, Volunteer Centre Sutton, Friends of Fairlands Park and the Metropolitan Police. On the day Antonio Di Angelo and Myself manned the stand and it was an opportunity to meet the wider community. To finish this report on a happy note the meeting advised that we were one of the successful projects approved in 24/25 financial year to date. Our bid for Information panels for The Paddock, SCP (Stonecot Ward) in the sum of £1,858.11. Our thanks to Cllrs Rob Beck and Cumar Sahathevan for their support at the Local Committee meeting.

Thank you : On the back of the prestigious Green Flag Award for the Park we have had a very rewarding and industrious year. Our achievements have been a collaborative effort. In the spirit of co-operation a big thank you to the Parks Team, our local Ward Councillors Rob and Cumar, Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers, Pete & Jean Callaway for managing our web site and not forgetting our committee members and Supporters for their all year round support.

### **Treasurers Report/Membership Report 2023-24**

See the following docs in advance of the AGM next Saturday:

1. AGM Treasurer's and Membership/GDPR report 2024
2. FoSCP Lloyd's Bank Ledger
3. FoSCP Membership Ledger
4. Current GDPR email list of members

Here is the proposal for the AGM which is included in the Treasurer's Report, regarding the proposed monthly charges:

#### AGM Proposal: Changes to the Treasurer's Account:

Lloyd's Bank have notified us that from January 2025 they will be charging a £4.25 monthly fee for the use of the Treasurer's Account. This would result in an annual cost of £51.00. It is therefore proposed that we moved to Metro Bank's Community Account which currently has no monthly fee. There is a Metro Bank located in the High Street in Sutton.