

The Friends of Sutton Common Park

25th Annual General Meeting

To be held at 12.00 Noon on Saturday 2nd December 2023 @ The Close SM3 9EQ

Agenda

1. Welcome by the Chairman
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last meeting
4. Any Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Annual Report (2022-23)
6. Treasurers Report/ Membership Report (2022-23)
7. Election of Officers
 - (a) Chair
 - (b) Vice Chair
 - (c) Treasurer
 - (d) Secretary
8. Election of Management Meeting (Up to 12 members)
9. New Green Flag status
10. AOB
11. Date of Next Meeting.

Close meeting/ collect subs

Foscp Minutes 25th AGM held at The Life Centre on Saturday 3rd December 2022

1 Welcome by the Chairman : Ray Leyden welcomed the following in attendance, Stephen C Jarvis, Dave Morgan and Jean Haagman

2 Apologies for absence : Russell Bennett and Antonio Di Angelo.

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 2021-2022 and it was approved and adopted.

6 Treasurers / Membership Report : The Chairman tabled the Treasurers Reports 2021-2022 issued under cover of his email 28th November 2022 which included 3/12/22 Treasurer's report for AGM 2022, 28/11/22 Membership list, 28/11/22 Lloyds Bank Treasurer Account Ledger, 28 11 22 Lloyds bank treasurer account, Full statement and November 2022 Lloyds Bank Treasurer Account monthly statement. The Reports were approved and adopted. A vote of thanks was given to Antonio.

7 Election of Officers : Ray Leyden - Chair, Stephen C Jarvis - VC, Antonio Di Angelo, Treasurer, Secretary : Position - Open

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

9 Parks new 10 year Management Plan :The Parks final draft Plan 2022 to to 2032 is now approved by the Parks Dept and we have completed our consultation process. The proposal for the new LTA funded Tennis Court upgrade are approved and works to commence next year.

10 AOB : None Meeting closed

Chairmans Annual Report 2022 - 2023

SCBC Bowls Green : This year we got off to a difficult start when we had a meeting with the Parks Dept on Tuesday 31st January 2023 and sadly it was announced they were closing the Bowls Club to make financial savings. To make matters worse they failed to give proper notice to the Bowls Club who had already created a fixture list for the season. The Friends took this unfair decision to the LBS Local Committee on 23rd February 2023 but it turned out to be a lost cause as we subsequently found out that the Strategy & Resources Committee had already sanctioned the closure on the 20th February 2023. In the past we have used this as our AGM venue. We later issued a "Consultation Report" dated 17th June 2023 to the Parks Dept ref the closure of the Bowls Green to identify what went wrong with a view to improving future consultation. It was a team effort and special thanks to Antonio for his professional input. Lessons have been learnt.

Meadow Day in the Paddock ; This special event was organized by David Warburton, Senior Biodiversity Officer on Sunday 21st May 2023 11-00am-2pm. Dawn Fielding, our Friends Groups Co-ordinator produced a very striking poster for the Event with a link to "Evenbrite" for bookings and an Agenda which is on the poster as a tiny url and QR code. It's an up to-date way of trying to organise visitors and provide more information. The main event was, " Meet the Sussex Cattle" and learn how they benefit meadow management. Plus as well as "Join a Meadow Guided Walk, "Learn how to Scythe" and "learn about Local History" we also had the "Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers" who manage the upkeep of the Paddock with a stand to showcase their work. At any one time we counted about 70 visitors and over the day with all the different events going on probably 150 + Excellent consultation and it was a very successful event.

Tennis Courts Upgrade : Sutton Council and the LTA have agreed a Partnership to invest and refurbish public park tennis courts across the district including our very own courts (3) Work started in July 2023. The player entrance gate will have access control and courts may be booked on line. We support this decision because the existing courts have been constantly misused with other activities like kick football and cricket which has resulted in damaging the net at great cost. The new access control will help protect the amenities from unauthorized admission and misuse. Also there will be a new Tennis Provider who will bring new coaching opportunities to our local schools and tennis enthusiasts who want to improve their skills and follow a career path.

New Green Flag Success: We are delighted to announce this year that our beloved park has won the prestigious Green Flag award for the very first time. Thanks to a Stephen, VC and Dave Morgan who helped the Park Officers escort the Judges around the park. The Judges later issued a very detailed "Sutton Common Feedback Report 2023-2024" issued with a Pass. The award, judged and given annually, is a sign that our park boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is well maintained and has excellent facilities. With the Award we are also granted a "Green Flag" that we can fly and show off our newly

won status. This is a big plus for local residents and park users and bring much pride to our local community.

Sutton Common Park Front Entrance Road Safety Improvement Project ; Due to inconsiderate parking by Park Users at the weekend causing public danger in the main entrance we applied for Public Realm funding and we are happy to report we were successful with our £4k funding bid to install extra bollards in the main entrance. The work has now been completed and includes repainting the white lines to help protect the pedestrian public walkway and speed restrictions. We are pleased to report the outcome so far has been successful.

Sutton Community Fund Application funding 11/9/23 for the Paddock new interpretative Panels ; The first stage of the project has been completed with a dedicated Biodiversity Project established in the Lower Paddock of the Park known as, "Sutton Common Park-Wild Flower Creation Specification" We the Foscp have already fundraised and erected 2 Welcome signs at both entrances to the Paddock. At the Morden Way entrance the Welcome sign proudly proclaims, "The Paddock is maintained as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation" However what Visitors now need is sign posting with detailed knowledge about the project. To fulfil our wider ambition as part of our Sutton Community bid we now propose installing "Interpretative panels" at both entrances to showcase this top class "Biodiversity Project" This project will deliver visitor activities, educational in detail and will inform, promote and encourage schools and local interest groups. We currently await an outcome to the bid.

Park Friends Groups Meeting : This is a meeting organized by the Parks Dept for all the various Friends Group to exchange information and keep us all up to date. We had a recent meeting on 26th September 2023 and the Green Flag Awards were top of the Agenda with 11 of Suttons Parks achieving the coveted award and we joined the winners list for the very first time. The high lite of the meeting closed with a highly informative Presentation and Overview provided by David Warburton, Senior Biodiversity Officer showcasing his highly valued work in the Borough which included a clip on our Paddock Meadow Day. Sutton Parks are contributing in a big way with there Biodiversity Projects to help deal with climate change issues.

General news : We plan to have our Annual Walkabout with Sarah, LBS Contracts Manager end of November to review progress and actions. Also we are looking at new additional signage recommended in the Green Flag Report. Pleased to advise the new bins have been installed designed to prevent people dumping their rubbish in the park and foxes from scattering the rubbish. Also we are pleased to advise that a new Defibrillator has been installed on the side of the Sports Pavilion for public use thanks to our Resident Ace Football Club who received the donation from the Football Association. Finally we have a Community Bulb planting day planned for the 19th November which has played an important part in winning green flag status as a value is put on Community involvement which demonstrates the park is loved and cared for. Finally a big thanks to LBS Officers, Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers, Committee members, Cllrs Rob Beck, Cumar Saha and all our members for their all year round support. Specially thanks to Pete & Jean Callaway for managing our Friends website.

Foscp Treasurers Report – AGM 2nd December 2023

Balance on 30th November 2023:?? ?? £84.82

Review:

We have a positive balance of £84.82. The only expenditure for the year has been the payment of £122.26 for hosting the FoSCP website via Go Daddy.

2024 expenditure (Projected):

If the current price of website hosting remains as it is (without inflation) the cost will again be £122.26.

The cost of domain name renewal is approx £28.78 paid every two years or £14.39 per year, this is due in 2024.

Web hosting????£122.26

Domain name????£28.78

2024 expenditure total:??£151.04 (NB. subject to Inflation)

2024 website review (May 2024):

Given our current membership income this year was approx. 27 members x £5 subs = £135 per annum (excluding donations) we are likely to need to undertake another "website hosting review" before the hosting renews in June 2024, and this is pencilled for May 2024.

Given the projected 2024 expenditure is £151.04 (excluding inflation) we will use the May review to decide the best hosting option for the upcoming year. We still have a healthy reserve balance of £84.82 which will cover any likely inflation increase.

Notes from the 17th June 2023 Interim Report (updated):

Website hosting: The main annual cost is the annual website hosting fee and domain name renewal fee. Our website designer Pete Callaway secured website hosting as a new Go Daddy customer in June 2023 with the annual cost for one year being £122.26.

2023 Membership: We currently have 27 fully paid members for 2023. Since the start of the 2023 membership year, we saw an increase of online payments directly to the FoSCP bank account as opposed to cash/cheque payments, this trend is likely to continue with the push towards digital banking gathering pace and it is great that we have been able to offer this payment option to our members.

2023 Reminder Drive: This was completed and was very successful, with a conversion rate of at least 33 % of all the forms sent out during the drive resulting in many members returning.

GDPR update: all 2023 membership and reminder membership forms include a GDPR section at the 14 members filled in the GDPR section: 12 opted for email contact and 8 for post, and one member selected the phone contact option.

ENDs