

[UNCONFIRMED] Minutes of the Friends of Waterlow Park Annual meeting and AGM 11 June 2024

Apologies: Elaine Bernstein; Sally Gold; Michael Lacey

Attendees: 45

Fiona Brown (Chair of the Friends) welcomed the members and introduced the keynote speakers.

Peter Reader in conversation with **April Cameron** discussed their plans for the regeneration and sustainable revitalization of the parterres. This regeneration will involve analysis and enrichment of the soil where necessary, and the need to choose low maintenance plants because of the tight budget. Camden is providing much of new planting for three of the parterres but some specified planting will be funded by the Friends when the plants become available.

Along with the rest of the park, box hedging will be eliminated because of box moth damage. They More diversity in the wildflower mound is planned and there will be emphasis on the general importance of maintaining biodiversity in the park.

Fiona Brown gave an overview of the **FoWP highlights** during the past year:

FoWP volunteers planted the new *Physick bed* to a design by Lauren Munton and created in memory of Christine Farrell, former Chair of the Friends.

The Dog Show, held in March, proved one of the great successes of the year. This was opened by the actress and dog lover, Caroline Catz. The show was organized by Vivien Priestley and Patricia Walby with the help of the charity All Dogs Matter.

Pop-up concerts are taking place on four Sundays in August and will be financed by FoWP with the help of a Camden grant. This year it is hoped to recruit some young bands. The event will be organised by Patricia Walby and Vivien Priestley.

FoWP has supplied and planted four new trees in the Park.

The Chair thanked the FoWP *volunteers* for their gardening work (they meet on Mondays and Thursdays for 3-4 hours). The volunteers also raised about £4000 through the sale of plants and bulbs.

The Kitchen Garden is now co-ordinated by Valerie Doulton and all plots are currently occupied. New soil has been added to some of the beds and refurbishment of the compost bins is now planned and will take place soon.

The Biodiversity Group is led by committee member Ginnie Cumming.

Less mowing to encourage more diversity of plants and insects is encouraged by the Biodiversity group. As a result, the meadow has the highest butterfly count in the Park.

The Biodiversity Survey currently underway is being done by volunteers and the results entered onto GiGL (Green Space information for Greater London). Rita Drobner, who has contributed so much to the survey, has moved away and consequently resigned from the Biodiversity Group.

Trees and Views. Camden do not currently allow the pruning of trees to reveal or maintain a view. It is hoped that the retention of the view of St. Paul's from Sir Sydney statue may be secured if it becomes a designated as a St. Paul's view in the London Plan.

Louise Lewis, membership secretary, reported that FoWP currently has about 150 paid up members out of total subscriber base of 500.

Questions to the Chair from the floor

BBQs – the majority of complaints and comments related to this issue. A decision has been taken to reconvene the BBQ committee. This will involve Camden and TAG. Lorna Jane Russell, Green Party councillor for Highgate Ward, stated that she is keen to participate.

Finance Report from the Treasurer, Marcia Beer

Closing balance at 30 April 2024 was £16,246.02. This had been a successful year financially enabling the committee to support the park, organise events and undertake projects. The full report is available on the website (under Friends activities – reports)

Acceptance of the accounts: proposed – April Cameron; seconded - Ceridwen Roberts

TAG AGM **Ian Henghes**, (Chair of TAG) gave a brief description of the role of **TAG (Waterlow Trust Advisory Group)** in the administration of the Park and gave a summary of the TAG report for 2023-2024 this included:

New disabled access from Highgate High Street to be implemented.

Infants play area to be upgraded.

Finger signage within the Park. Will be in place soon.

Push to make St. Paul's view from Sir Sydney statue listed in the London Plan.

BBQs: BBQ committee to be reconvened to discuss and implement the control of BBQ numbers and behaviour. This will also involve Camden Council Parks and Green Spaces.

Question from the floor – Request for more plant and shrub signage

Committee Membership -

Patricia Walby had resigned from the FoWP committee after many years of devoted involvement and the Chair expressed the thanks of all present for her energetic support for the Park and the Friends. Vivien Priestley had joined after the 2023 AGM. This left three vacancies on the committee.

The other existing members have completed their two terms of office and the meeting agreed that all memberships should continue to roll over until the next AGM as provided for in the Constitution

The meeting closed 8.30 p.m.

CM/FB June 2024