

MINUTES OF THE HLRA MEETING ON 15 MAY 2019

PRESENT: Grace (Co-Chair), Shannon (Co-Chair), Alison, Danny, Hertha, Jane, Josh, Judith, Lana, Roger (Secretary)

OFFICER PRESENT: Kat Wojnar (for Item 1. Gardening only)

ABSENT WITH APOLS: Deborah, Jay, Kim, Yvonne.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 8th April 2019 were approved.

1. GARDENING

Kat reported that the Gardening Group (GG) was going well. There had been teething problems over the areas on which to work and what to do on them but these have been largely resolved. The Polytunnel and the Edible Garden were progressing well.

Pond: Restoring the pond must be left until July/August when the frogs have gone and the pond can be dried out. The leak can then be repaired and the pond and statue cleaned. Funds for this will be sought from the DMC whose next meeting is on 18th June. With Peter Freeman on leave for family reasons, it is proving difficult to get an estimate of costs from Camden so:

ACTION: LANA to get quotes for the work on repairing the pond.

Estimates of re-instating the fountain, around £12,000, and the ongoing costs of operating it put that beyond our reach at this time. However, it would be possible to install solar powered lighting and this has received enthusiastic support from residents.

The important matter of how to plant out the pond once it has been repaired needs to be discussed.

Hedges: idVerde are contracted to cut hedges at least three times a year. Kat would like us to contact Lucas Kelly, who co-ordinates this, to ask for a team to cut the hedges asap.

ACTION: ROGER email Lucas Kelly.

Weeds: Kat has attempted, with the help of the GG, to control weeds by hand but this damages paving and is impractical in terms of time and labour. In some areas, the growth of moss could become a health and safety issue.

ACTION: KAT will investigate spraying methods alternative to glyphosate. **Roger** will talk to Barbara Wheatley about what she plans to do now the Estate is glyphosate free.

Community Centre Terrace: Danny pointed out that the herbs are growing well and are available for residents' use. April, a volunteer on Monday lunch, will water on Mondays. Danny recommended wall climbing plants.

ACTION: The GG will plant some wall climbers.

Shannon reported that Camden had contacted us to clarify who our TRA gardening reps are. Deb had requested that gardening contract standards should be on the agenda and this will be discussed at the next meeting when she will be present.

Deb also requested that there should be regular daytime meetings for members who cannot make evening ones. It was decided that the next meeting will be held at 4pm when this matter will be discussed. A note has been added to the HLCC Calendar.

ACTION: ROGER to email Deb about this change of time.

2. YOUNG PERSONS' PROJECT

Shannon reported that Hugh Boatswain is making an Officer's Request to the DMC for funding for the Young Persons' Project, specifically for a Bloomsbury Football Academy. This will provide a free football programme twice a week, on Sunday mornings and one evening, for boys and girls from 7 to 12 years old. The club will be open to young people from the Estate and beyond. Whittington Park pitch, the pitches on the Heath and others will be used (not the Estate gardens). Sasha will receive formal training to be a football coach. There will also be a link with the recently re-funded Van Hoekermere Community Group at Queen's Crescent for Arts projects. The Committee fully endorsed these initiatives.

ACTION: GRACE and SHANNON to sign and send off DMC request. The next DMC meeting is on 18th June.

3. GREAT GET TOGETHER (GGT)

Nationally the next GGT is scheduled for 22-23 June to mark Jo Cox's 45th birthday but as the Estate is having its summer party on 23rd June it was agreed to have our street party later, on 6th July. It is the turn of Langbourne Avenue this year. The Core Group will consist of Alison, Lana, Shannon and Roger.

ACTION: ALISON to design a poster and ask Hugh to produce it. Also to draw up a plan of action with a list of volunteers and to liaise with the Core Group before the next Committee meeting on 10th June.

4. BINS AND RECYCLING

We have received no further information from Chris Slater (CS).

ACTION: Grace to invite CS to our next meeting.

Shannon to talk to Veolia about the possibility of funding the construction of new sheds by the Sheltered Accommodation.

Lana to talk to Oxfam about putting a clothes recycling bin on the Estate.

5. AOB

Fire Safety: Grace has written to Camden again about the fire safety risk of old, possibly faulty, electrical wiring and fuse boxes in flats. It is Camden's responsibility to inspect and where necessary replace faulty wiring in Council flats. Although leaseholders bear this responsibility in their flats, faulty wiring is a fire risk to everyone and the council should check leaseholders' flats and advise accordingly.

Climate Emergency: Roger said he has four tickets to the Dartmouth Park talk on Wednesday 22nd May, 7.45pm to 9.30pm, at the Star, Chester Road, on the practical action Camden Council should take having declared a Climate Emergency last month. Georgia Gould, leader of the Council will be there with Sian Berry, our Green Councillor. It might be an opportunity to raise relevant issues, especially HHW, affecting Holly Lodge. Alison, Shannon and Josh expressed an interest to go with Roger.

ACTION: Roger to email them with information.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday 10th June in the Community Centre at the earlier hour of 4pm.