

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND GREEN HELD AT THE CRICKETERS PUB, RICHMOND GREEN, RICHMOND AT 7:30 PM ON 14 MAY 2013

Present

FORG executive Vivien Harris (Chair); Malcolm Mirrielees; Graham Walker; Martin Anderson; Peter Willan; Tracy Hurley, Don Anderson, Peter Griffiths
Residents 27 attended
Apologies Cllr Frances Bouchier; Anne Gilks, Lea Hanrahan, Alison MacDonald

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting were approved (proposed Nick Coleman; seconded Malcolm Mirrielees) and signed by Vivien Harris.

Matters arising- John Coates pointed out that the date of the AGM on the 2012 Newsletter was not correct; this was checked and indeed it was correct in the Newsletter as well as the AGM Minutes.

There were several Questions regarding the Diamond Jubilee Bollard Project which were deferred for discussion until the end of the meeting.

May 2013 Newsletter was submitted as the Executive Report.

Chair's Report

Vivien Harris outlined several issues FoRG has been working on during the past year: Diamond Jubilee Bollard Project; Richmond Heathrow Campaign; Old Deer Park Crown Lease renewal; Management of Parks and Open Spaces.

Treasurer's Report

Malcolm Mirrielees presented the accounts and these were approved (proposed Martin Anderson; seconded Peter Willan). Malcolm advised that the Committee proposed making a donation of £2250 (6 bollards) towards the Diamond Jubilee Bollard Project.

There was a discussion about the allocation of monies for filming in and around The Green and Malcolm explained that it is the local Councillors who decide where these funds are directed but the agreement in principle with the local Councillors is that if filming involves disruption to residents for example through the suspension of residents or shared use parking bays, then FoRG receives a donation from the film companies.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Vivien Harris agreed to continue as Chair.
Malcolm Mirrielees agreed to continue as Treasurer.
Don Anderson agreed to act as Secretary and replaced Tracy Hurley who was standing down. (proposed Nick Coleman seconded Paul Vickers)

By a show of hands of members the three officers were elected and Peter Willan, Martin Anderson, Peter Griffiths and Graham Walker were re-elected as members of the Committee. (proposed John Coates; seconded Harmit Kalsi)

Formal meeting ended at 8pm.

General Meeting

Individual Committee members spoke about each of the specific topics listed below although the Diamond Jubilee Bollard Project was a major discussion topic and allocated 30 minutes. The main points were all covered in the Newsletter of May 2013 previously distributed to members' homes and also available at the meeting. The Newsletter forms part of these Minutes.

Discussions/questions from the floor

1. Old Deer Park
2. Heathrow
3. Licensing and Anti-Social Behaviour
4. Website and communications
5. Diamond Jubilee Bollard Project
6. AOB

1. Old Deer Park

Peter Willan spoke about the Old Deer Park 2016 lease renewal. He is Chair of the working committee comprising the Richmond and Kew Societies; FoRG; Friends of Old Deer Park and the St Margarets Estate Residents Association. The working party has prepared a detailed report available on the FoRG website. Peter explained that ODP is owned by The Crown Estate and has four leases with:- London Borough of Richmond upon Thames including the car park, grassy areas adjacent to the A316, buildings located within the car park and Pools on the Park, the golf course (lease renewal in 2043), Richmond Cricket Club, and Richmond Athletic Association. The concern of the group is where the renewal will lead to and what opportunities will rise out of it.

There was a discussion about the disused under-road walkway that leads from the town through to the park and whether this could be re-opened; about the athletics' club involvement; the general access to the park and the state of the Pools on the Park buildings. A general consensus is that the park is under-utilised and that some of the facilities are not in good order.

2. Heathrow

Peter Willan spoke about the Richmond Heathrow Campaign (RHC) of which FoRG is a member as well as The Kew Society and The Richmond Society. In the last two years the group has undertaken extensive research and has been involved in regular high-level meetings and discussions about the future of Heathrow.

Heathrow does not need to be expanded to service more passengers. It is often said Heathrow is at capacity, but three proposals submitted by Richmond Heathrow Campaign to the Airports Commission suggest Heathrow could double its passengers without a 3rd runway or mixed mode. These proposals include increasing the fleet passenger loads and replacing international transfer passengers (the hub concept) with local UK demand.

RHC is seeking a ban on night flights between 11pm and 7am; noise and pollution are far too high during these hours.

Adrian Parsons commented about the unfair 'arbitrary line' for those offered secondary glazing on The Green and thinks it is worthwhile contesting for those interested in the scheme.

3. Licensing and Anti-Social Behaviour

As per Newsletter.

4. Website and communications

Don Anderson talked us through the new FoRG website he has been working on for the past few months. It is updated and responsive (so we can 'post as we go' - keeping as up to date as possible). He suggests a 'members area' where residents can log in and discuss local issues without worrying about who sees it outside of the local area. There will be new functions and features going live very soon.

Harmit Kalsi pointed out that although we see each other annually it would be nice to put faces to addresses.

Don was thanked by the committee for his efforts to date.

5. Diamond Jubilee Bollard Project

Vivien Harris (Chair) spoke about the project FoRG has been undertaking to reinstall the bollards. The project (along with procurement) has now been taken over by the Council and will encompass a comprehensive refurbishment of The Green and The Little Green to include the benches, grass, resurfacing the pavements in heritage gravel; a new pavement for the Pembroke Villas side and funds permitting, the fountain.

There will be a public 3 week consultation which entails among other things, boards on side of the Keeper's Hut; consultation boards on display in the Richmond Library; posters on parks notice boards and community notice boards directing users to info. on Hut/Library ; info on Consultation Finder (Richmond Council website) and on the latest Parks Page; and two session dates to be on the Green (with FoRG). Upon completion of consultation, an analysis of results will be undertaken and decision made.

There was general discussion about the gaps in the placement for access, the maintenance of both bollards and grass; steps to ensure that the railings are not used as cycle lockups and the overall appearance of The Green with the reinstatement of the bollards and rails. The Council has agreed to undertake maintenance and have assured that there will be no issues with access either for essential machinery or visitors to The Green.

We had a 5-minute presentation from John Coates and a 8-minute presentation from Laurence Bain detailing their opposition to the project. John Coates did not want bollards on the Little Green.

Charles Clark finished the discussion by asking for the decisions to be left for the elected Committee and the Council to work out. There was a show of hands which was overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal.

AOB

Trees on The Green

There was discussion about the plane trees on Greenside and Vivien Harris reported that FoRG is in ongoing discussions with the Council about the pruning of these; they were supposed to be crown-lifted to 5m and 7m between trees but the contractors did not complete the job to satisfaction. There has been commitment from the Council that the agreed-to pruning will be undertaken by the newly appointed specialist tree contractor.

Charles Clark commented on the cleanliness of The Green after the most recent May Day bank holiday.

Julian Paxton asked about the lost parking spaces after road resurfacing was undertaken last year and the size of the car club parking spaces. This will be followed up on with the Council by FoRG.

It was agreed that the venue (The Cricketers) was a great space for our meeting tonight and we are very grateful to The Cricketers for allowing us to use the room free of charge.

The Committee agreed to take all these helpful suggestions on board and take appropriate actions.

The meeting ended at 9:04pm.