

Friends of Gladstone Park - Trustee Meeting - 12 November 2024

Minutes of meeting held in person

Present

Francine Lawrence (chair)	Cllr Tariq Dar	Paul Hurst	Cllr Liz Dixon
Gill Close (minutes)	Owen Plummer	Helen Goodsell	David McClements
Fitzroy Lee			

Apologies

Hazel Glenister	Mark Cummins	Lia Colacicco	Sajjad Dar
Bassil Elnaiem			

Actions are shown by initials in bold.

Approval of minutes

- Minutes approved.

Council updates

- The detailed update from Sam Haines, summarised below, was circulated with the agenda.
- The meadow signs should be installed by the end of November.
- Continental Landscapes have proposed a plan of action for the pond for monthly checking, cutting and clearing without entering the pond. The island has been untouched for so long that it is not just a maintenance issue. **FL** to contact Sam to set a date for a review meeting. **GC** to check with Leslie Williams the depth of the pond as it affects whether our insurance would cover trained volunteers working in it.
- Hedge cuttings have been removed from the Mulgrave Road entrance but hedge cutting has not yet been completed (e.g. on Parkside) due to equipment issues.
- Sam asked which bins were not always emptied. PH said it was the bins on the cycle path along the north side of the railway. **GC** to let Sam know. **All** to check which bins are not emptied.
- Kelly Eaton is working with Continental Landscapes on how to mow more effectively, given that the contract stipulates use of electric vehicles.
- Sam has received no reply from Network Rail regarding community members helping to clear litter alongside the railway racks. There are safety problems in allowing volunteers to be alongside the lines. Trustees agreed to close this action.
- In response to the query about providing information about taking your litter home in Arabic as well as English, Sam said the council prefers to use images. TD said that talking to community members in the park was the best way forward and would be done again next summer. As the mayor, he conveys to new citizens their responsibility to keep parks and roads clean.
- Sam had received requests about refurbishing playground equipment but the council does not have funds for this. However, it does address health and safety issues. Sam suggested that either a community grant or external funding should be applied for. If FoGP identified a lead person to make a bid, Sam offered to work with them to help with costing and design. The most need is for the lower playground, that Sam estimated would cost £60k to refurbish and £120k for overhaul. For the middle playground, Sam said that £60k could do a few decent things then replace swing seats and paint equipment. She said that £150k could address both playgrounds. She asked if the middle playground equipment was reaching the right age groups; trustees said it was. LD said Andrew from Wicksteed had costed a playground for her recent proposal; LD offered to support making a bid. Trustees agreed to focus on the lower playground and advertise in the newsletter for someone to lead the bid. **Helen** to advertise it in the newsletter.
- Helen reported concerns that some of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) prohibitions relating to dogs were being breached. She will put a reminder in the newsletter. Sam will again bring the Dogs Trust to the park to talk to dog walkers.

Wildlife and events

- Helen will meet Vince Nurse and Marcin Bergius from Continental Landscapes and request that the Gladstone Gardening Group (GGG) applies for the London in Bloom gold award next year.
- Helen reported that Dean Whitfield will cost all of the pruning and check whether the council will pay for it, perhaps as part of the tree safety budget.
- Trustees agreed to reimburse £314.35 for bulbs for the walled garden north bed and the pots at the Anson Road entrance and other walled garden plants, £16.54 for a hose mending kit and £56 for shed keys.

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- Trustees agreed to spend £649 for 3 pallets of mushroom compost for the soil around roses.
- Trustees agreed to spend £124.20 for extra roses.
- Trustees agreed to raise to £2000 the annual nominal spending amount for the Gladstone Gardening Group, as sufficient funds have been raised to cover this.
- LD contacted Martin Page, Brent Council's principal landscape architect, for an update on the Local Nature Reserve application. He promised an update soon.

Gladstone Centre

- LD said concern had been expressed at the high estimate stated for repair to enable the Gladstone Centre's use as a meanwhile space and a revised estimate had been requested.
- GC reported that Cllr Mili Patel, the deputy leader and cabinet member for finance and resources, with council officers was available to meet trustees at 6pm on Tuesday 11 February. TD offered the mayor's parlour at the civic centre for that trustee meeting from 6pm to 8pm.
- LC will show her updated slides to Mili. There is potential for a GP surgery with some community use. The council will spend something on Barham Park premises as there are sitting tenants but it does not have funds available for the Gladstone Centre.

Public meetings

- It was decided to defer plans for a public meeting on the Gladstone Centre until enough was known.
- It was also decided not to hold a 2pm to 4pm Saturday afternoon tea and cakes event in the rugby club but to hold one outside in the early summer, as we had done before.

Education and young people

- DM reported that the Forest School, led by Katie Mills, booked the woodland every Wednesday for 1.5 hours in the morning and in the afternoon for Torah Temimah Primary School children aged 7-10. It is having an impact on the environment and such intensive use may well disturb nesting in the spring. **DM** thinks they should use the whole park and will contact Katie Mills, copying in Sam Haines.
- DM said that Anson Primary School is using all different habitats in the whole park.
- DM said that the discovery walk was enjoyed by 15 children of all ages and their parents.
- **GC** has spoken to Our Lady of Grace Infant School about litter picking linked to the curriculum and will contact them, Our Lady of Grace Junior School and Crest Academy about starting this in the spring. **DM** will ask Anson Primary School about involvement in litter picking.
- Trustees agreed the safeguarding policy. LC had agreed to be the safeguarding lead.

Constitutional matters

- GC reported that Sajjad Dar had moved away and thought it best to resign, and that Rick Gibbs could be approached about being the trustee from the rugby club. **GC** to follow up.
- The revision or clarification of matters agreed on 6 February was carried over to the next meeting.
- Carried forward: **Hazel** to contact BE to find out if he still wants to be a trustee.

Focus of our work

- Discussion of our long, medium and short term goals would be a priority at the next meeting. **GC** to circulate the goals drafted in June 2024, **all** to send FL their suggestions, **FL** to collate them.

Finance

- Treasurer's report accepted: balance £3;060.13. £212.92 of the £1000 GGG budget remaining.

Actions for trustees from 17 September meeting not elsewhere on the agenda

Carried forward:

- **FL** will print a small notice about StreetLink to fit into the noticeboards.
- **FL** to draft and circulate wording about FoGP and how to become a friend for a small notice to display on noticeboards.
- **FL** and **GC** to write wording for Facebook on how and why to report Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) breaches.

Any other business

- FL reminded trustees to visit Our Yard at Clitterhouse Farm, if they had not done so already, to see what the local community can achieve. <https://www.ouryard.org/>

Date of next two meetings

- 6.30pm - 8.00pm Tuesday 10 December 2024 at Pakistan Community Centre, Marley Walk NW2 4PU
- 6.00pm - 8.00pm Tuesday 11 February 2025 at the mayor's parlour, Brent Civic Centre, with Cllr Mili Patel and officers to discuss the Gladstone Centre. Note earlier start time.