

Friends of Gladstone Park - Trustee Meeting - 14 October 2025

Minutes of meeting held in person

Present

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

Apologies

Lia Colacicco	Mark Cummins	Cllr Liz Dixon	Rick Gibbs
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Visitor: Sofia Ali for the item on Walk2Run

Actions are shown by initials or names in bold.

Walk2Run

- Sofia Ali, who ran for Queens Park Harriers and is a qualified England Athletics coach, explained that she set up Walk2Run six years ago to support women to run. It meets at the park entrance near Cricklewood Library every Tuesday at 8am. It starts with a 15-minute warm up, which is followed by 30 minutes of walking/running around different routes, and ends with 15 minutes of core exercise near the pavilion. Some participants started by walking, then began to jog and later to run. Some have progressed to parkrun and a half marathon. Some still walk. Ages are mainly 40+ and a couple of men have now joined. Group members had spoken of it being life changing and safe. They have formed a close group. They do monthly runs at other nearby locations and made a trip to Lake Maggiore last year.
- Sofia Ali has won awards for Walk2Run at the England Athletics Volunteer Awards and BBC Radio London's Make a Difference Award. She would welcome a Walk2Run flyer in the park noticeboards.
- Sofia is a parkrun director. Parkrun starts at 9am each Saturday. Sofia said that parkrun members wanted water and a café. She said there was too much rubbish near the pavilion where they start and finish.
- **Hazel/Francine** to ask Sam Haines if Krinkels could pick up litter near the pavilion at 8.30am on Saturdays.

Minutes of 9 September meeting

- Minutes were approved.

Volunteer policy

- DM said that we did not have a system for recording and reporting conduct incidents. In particular, DM wanted to report a particular incident. Fitzroy offered to hold a record of incidents. DM said he would write a report of the incident and send it to Fitzroy.
- DM said it was important that trustees and Friends of Gladstone Park volunteers had support provided regarding conduct issues. The draft volunteer policy provided by DM was discussed. Trustees decided that a code of conduct should be drafted. After that, the need for a volunteer policy could be decided. The final code of conduct would be sent to volunteers. **Fitzroy** to draft a code of conduct.

Feedback on 13 September tea party

- Francine reported that the tea party had been successful, with over 120 cups of tea served, lots of plants sold and new people met. She recommended that future tea parties should be held on dates that rugby club activity was also taking place. She suggested that the next one should be in spring, in early May 2026.
- OP summarised some of the comments community members had provided on sticky notes. Many people said they loved the park but complained there was too much rubbish. Some wanted more activities for children and a swimming pool. Sam Haines had said that slopes for bikes could be put into the multi-use games area (MUGA). **OP** to circulate the comments.

The focus of our work

- **Hazel** and **GC** to update and edit the Friends of Gladstone Park suggested goals dated 18 March 2025, then circulate for comments. Events for park users include history walks, copse walks and hedge events.

Update on council actions

- Litter bins and their cost – Francine is waiting for a response from Sam Haines for the price of Bigbelly Element bins <https://www.futurestreet.com/element-3/>. As this is the main approach that trustees are suggesting to the council, further suggestions from the council and Krinkels were not being asked for at this stage. Helen wrote to Vincent Nurse, Krinkels manager, with a photo of a full bin and the bags of rubbish around it. **Francine** to share with trustees the email Caroline Woollard sent her summarising her evidence about the Biffa bins.
- Rough sleepers near memorial – trustees had not reported them via StreetLink
- Pond, removal of reeds – Sam Haines had reported that a purchase order had been raised but no date set
- Dogs must be on a lead sign at ground level missing in the pleasure ground – Sam Haines had said that it might be replaced in a modern style similar to the sign on the railings
- Noticeboard near main Dollis Hill Lane entrance still missing glass – Sam Haines had said that the last time it was replaced, it was immediately broken again, so she was waiting for a while before replacing it
- Tennis court work had begun on the office for staff, toilet for staff and players, and water fountain for all
- Signage had been installed showing the car park would be locked between 7.30pm and 6.30am. Francine's response to the council about the lack of clarity in its proposal to state that locking would be from "dusk to dawn" had led to this use of specific times.

Finance

- Treasurer's report accepted: balance £3501.09.

Any other business

- Francine reported running water under a hedge on the path to the library. **Francine** to report it to Sam Haines.
- **GC** to write wording for Facebook on how and why to report Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) breaches.

Date of next meeting

- 6.30pm - 8.00pm Tuesday 2 December 2025 at Pakistan Community Centre, Marley Walk NW2 4PU
- 6.30pm - 8.00pm Tuesday 20 January 2026 was pencilled in as a possible date for the following meeting, to be finalised at the 2 December meeting and put back to a later date if trustees decide on a longer gap between the next two meetings.