

## Friends of Newlands Park Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### Draft Minutes

Present: Julia Radcliffe, Frances Keane, Iain MacBean, George Frier, Dave McLeod, Sheilagh White.

Attending: Alan Melville, Brian Rigby, Matthew Sheehan, Debbie Gill, Lawrence Benn, Mike Ball, Annette and Ian McKay, Fiona Godsman.

Apologies: Barbara Tropp, Jennifer Wales, Gary Linstead, Jamie MacDonald, Cllr Sean Ferguson.

Minutes of previous meeting: These had been circulated in advance and accepted. Proposed by Frances Keane and seconded by Sheilagh White.

Tennis Courts: Work is on schedule. The tarmac needs two to three weeks to allow volatile chemicals to evaporate before painting can commence. The fencing will be erected this week. A grant application for £2,566 to cover start-up costs (benches, bins, signage, etc.) has been successful. Julia has (between committee meetings) suggested that FoNP awards NPCTC £300 for signage (acknowledging the role of FoNP in the formation and continuing support of NPCTC). The courts will be operational in late May and it is hoped the official opening date may be 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Lawrence asked how early the courts would open each morning? Dave assured him they would be open as early as people wished, dependent on the time of year. Schools, Guides, Scouts, and other local organisations are being invited to be involved. Meetings are being set up for people who wish to volunteer. George was thanked for his invaluable help with legal documents.

Membership/Donations: The GoFundMe website page is still attracting occasional donations but Fiona showed everyone a draft website she is creating for FoNP that can have its own donations button, hopefully encouraging more donations than GoFundMe does.

(The site can include other functions/headings: wildlife, the pond, the tree walk text. It can be updated/kept current. Everyone was invited to consider which other key categories should be included, e.g. recent news, volunteering, etc. Fiona is setting up Twitter and Instagram accounts, with the name NewlandsParkG43.)

Open Evening: to take place next Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April in the Dandelion Café. This has been advertised on FoNP's Facebook, other local Facebook groups, and by email. Posters are going up at park entrances and on the café railings tomorrow. The Dandelion is advertising it on their Facebook, Instagram and twitter too. Fiona has created a flier to be handed out before, on the night, and beyond. Discussion took place re. the subject areas to concentrate on. It was agreed that we would concentrate on a maximum of four items, with a flip chart sheet for each item. Fiona reminded us that, when people join FB, the main item that they want to see happen is improving play facilities for children, including those for older children.

Pond: Julia is ready to order a bench to be placed in front of the pond (sourced from the company that makes most of the benches in the park). We are awaiting confirmation that it can be sited in front of the pond, when the path is re-surfaced.

Pollok Park's manager has kindly donated to us a redundant sign. Its timber structure can be overlaid with a new, powder-coated, enamelled steel 'tray' signboard interpreting the pond's biodiversity. The sign will be sited at the right-hand side of the opening to the pond (looking south).

It's important that we get the sign and the bench ready for whenever the pond path is to be installed, so that the path contractors can include them when re-surfacing.

Julia has sourced high-quality images (of plants and wildlife found in and around the pond) for the sign, with others available to view via a QR code. Discussion took place on the importance of warning dog owners of the dangers of algae for dogs. The general consensus was that we could put signs on the railings at both the front and rear access points, with short, polite notices: the pond contains blue-green algae which can be fatal to dogs. If using the railings is not effective, then we can try more visible, pole-mounted signs instead.

Fete: Julia wishes not to have a role because of commitments to the start-up of the Community Tennis Centre. Debbie is keen to take a lead and has time in May to work through the early planning stages. After discussion, it was decided to go ahead again with the fete, on the first Saturday in September (2<sup>nd</sup> September).

Debbie's review paper after last year's fete can form the starting point for this year's plan. Baseline funding is required for insurance and the hire of toilets. Last year, these essential items cost £1,000 and £200 respectively. There is approximately £2,000 unallocated FoNP funds available in this current financial year. Some of this can be used for the fete.

**Action: Julia to ask the Scouts if they wish to participate again. All: Generate ideas for income/creating a fete budget.**

Biodiversity: Debbie has continued to work with Ros Docherty from Friends of Linn Park, setting up a Butterfly Transect. The route is around the periphery of the park and the pond. It measures about 1.2km. The transect will be registered soon. Then we need volunteers plus training. It was agreed to discuss this at next week's open evening.

AOCB: Alan made the point that we need additional tools. There are funds for tools within the budget created by the original grants.

**Action: someone to draw up a costed tools list.**

Julia proposed that Matthew Sheehan should be co-opted onto the committee to fill the vacant post and Sheilagh seconded this proposal. Matthew was unanimously co-opted and thanked for his commitment to the group.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

*Thanks to Mary for the minutes and Sheilagh for setting up the room.*