

WPGF
Wendell Park Gardening Friends
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Monday 1st October 2018 7.30pm Duchess of Cambridge Pub

Present:

Simon Grange, Caroline MacMillan, Colin MacMillan, Frances Fedden, Sarah Heaton, Charlotte Morgan, Martin Hargreaves, Nicola Pyne, Councilors Rory Vaughan and Rowan Ree.

The Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting 2017 were approved.

THANKS:

Warm thanks to Catherine Rémy for all her work and enthusiasm. She has decided to step down from her role as Treasurer.

Warm thanks to Sarah Heaton for her apt choice of plants that withstood the drought.

More thanks to Charlotte for tweeting WPGF news and to Ground Force and Thames Water for installing for free a much needed water tap.

Everyone joined in to thank Stefan and all the team at LBHF for their continued support and thanks to Steve Cassidy the park gardener and to Idverde.

Thanks also to the team, including Nicola and Colin, who kept the plants alive during the hottest summer for 42 years!

RESUME OF PAST YEAR:

Chairman Simon Grange summarized that it had been a successful first year, and social media had played a significant part in raising the profile of WPGF

Over 1,500 bulbs had been planted, some with the help of children from Wendell School.

Simon attended a Space Hive event for L.B. Hounslow and gave his experiences as a fundraiser for a community project.

Caroline represented WPGF at the Lyric Hammersmith at a Space Hive event to engage the community in further projects with Space Hive.

The Sunday Times featured WPGF with photos on their front home page in an article on community projects.

It was acknowledged that 'Next Door Wendell Park' had been helpful in raising our profile and getting events publicized.

Volunteer Days are being held from March to November and we are committed to engaging with the community and making WPGF accessible to all.

A contingent of WPGF attended a fun evening at Sycamore House run by United Charities. It was in the style of Gardeners Question Time and several questions were fielded by WPGF. All the committee thought such an event was a good way to profile an organization and engage people.

FINANCE:

Simon summarized that we have a healthy bank balance today of over £7,000 made up of donations, Space Hive funding, local sales of plants, books and sundries. There has been expenditure of over £2,000 during the last year on plants, bulbs and bedding. He anticipated a further significant expenditure on plants this autumn.

COMING UP:

Caroline initiated links with the 28th Hammersmith Scouts Group and Neil Docherty is keen to involve them in gardening this autumn. There are several bulb planting mornings coming up in October that we have publicized by leaflet and social media. The north border is being cleared and prepared for planting as a 'winter border'. There is ongoing contact with Wendell School for the children's planting area.

Caroline & Frances will have a presence at several local fairs in the library and hope to do the Kite Studios event again. The idea of selling bags and mugs with the WPGF logo was agreed to be worth trying.

Frances is in touch with Community Volunteers and "Do-it" with the intention of linking us to local businesses that would like to volunteer. Caroline, Sarah and Frances all thought recruiting more volunteers was one of our most important tasks in the coming months.

The dog area remains problematic and muddy in winter. WPGF planted 2 birch trees there this spring and will liaise with the Council to try to solve the mud problem that stops dog owners from exercising their dogs in the designated area.

OFFICERS:

Catherine Rémy has resigned as Treasurer. Simon Grange resigned as Chairperson at the end of the meeting. Frances proposed that Caroline MacMillan should be elected Chairperson. Simon was elected Treasurer and will also attend to I.T. and the website. These elections were proposed and seconded.

Chairperson	Caroline MacMillan
Vice Chairperson	Frances Fedden
Treasurer	Simon Grange
Secretary	Sarah Heaton

AOB:

Martin questioned whether WPGF was sustainable in the long term, and all the Committee considered it certainly was for the foreseeable future, especially with further community involvement. Councillor Ree said LBHF had ambitious targets for recycling and we were able to tell him that we shall soon be composting with the help of H & F. He also emphasized how important green spaces are, particularly for those who don't have outside space.