



Minutes of the Friends of Ruskin Park Annual General Meeting (on Zoom) held on 14th January 2021

Name	Attendance	Role
Chris Norris	Attended	Trustee (Vice-Chair)
Dave Benson	Attended	Trustee (Treasurer)
Lucy Hadfield	Attended	Trustee (Chair)
Julie Simpson	Attended	Trustee
Erica Walker	Attended	Trustee
Susanne Currid	Attended	Trustee

Other Attendees – 48

Welcome

Lucy Hadfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced a [short film of photos and children's artwork](#) produced by Julie Simpson and Jacs Bell highlighting some of the park's joys. Lucy also introduced the trustees and committee members as well as Lambeth councillors, Jim Dickson and Becca Thackray and Kevin Crook, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods.

Apologies

None

Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 3 December 2019 were approved.

Trustee Changes

Since the last AGM the following trustees have resigned

- Susanne Currid
- Erica Walker

Lucy thanked them for their work and contribution to FoRP over the years She also thanked Russell Wilson who has done all the branding for FoRP for many years and is also moving away.

Lucy asked members to appoint the two new trustees who have been appointed by the trustees during the year:

- Kate Malleson
- Mandy Millward

The Trustee appointments were confirmed.

Annual Report

It looked back at past achievements and forward to what we intended to do in the forthcoming year. Our charitable objectives and aims were reiterated and they did not change from year to year.

Footfall had a massive increase due to the pandemic, showing what a lifeline the park had been for people. The dedicated park officer had seen strides in the park's maintenance.

Achievements: publishing a strategic masterplan after consultation so funding could be found to implement improvements, wildlife garden works, community gardening, guided walks, volunteering, photography competition.

Disappointments: summer fete and seasonal events, paddling pool, bandstand concerts, engagement events with the community – none of which could happen.

We had identified 15 workstreams, which was ambitious.

In answer to a question, membership had increased but not as much as usual due to no fête this year. There had been an increase in landscaping volunteers.

Lucy thanked all those who contribute their time, talents and money to the park including trustees, paddling pool group, litter pickers and a host of other volunteers, grant providers, partners and donors.

Financial Accounts

David Benson, Treasurer, presented the year's accounts (see slide 7 of presentation).

He explained the key numbers in the accounts including:

- Revenue was mainly driven by grant income (£20k from the Postcode Lottery Fund and some other small grants as detailed in note 3).
- Donations were higher than last year by around £700.
- Fall in revenue and expenses from not being able to so events such as the Fete, bandstand concerts and Winter Fair.
- At the year end the total reserves were £51k, with £30k in unrestricted, £11k in restricted grants and £10k in the paddling pool fund.
- Cash was higher than reserves (£68k) as we had been given some money in grants that was deferred until the following year due to COVID related delays.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2019/20 were approved by the meeting.

Stable Block Update

Since the Annual Report was published, the SLaM stable block proposal had been withdrawn due to changes in circumstances. It was currently being advertised by Lambeth looking for new proposals. A National Lottery Heritage Fund application might be possible. It appeared to still be structurally sound. Short-term repairs would be done by Lambeth to preserve the structure and allow the future possibilities for investment and eventual use with external partner/s.

The building had to be used for educational, social or recreational use open to the public. FoRP would like its use to serve the community well and to be consistent with the masterplan framework.

Presentation by Kevin Crook, Lambeth Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods

There had been a lack of investment over past few years. Funding in the past was attached to Section 106 development which did not happen for Ruskin Park. Now, a capital investment plan was coming into place pending final approval and £10m for parks would be guaranteed. The allocation for RP would enable significant improvements identified in outline in the masterplan, which had helped to make the case for Lambeth funding. Planning for implementation should start soon in the 2021/22 financial year and a project structure would be set up, which FoRP would be engaged with.

Priorities

NW corner - improve and renovate play and sports facilities. Hope for Investment from the Football Association – a new 3G football pitch to replace the existing Redgra pitch. Play area to be extended to provide for older children. Also, path resurfacing and toilet renovations.

Questions

Do football groups using pitches contribute to the park?

There was currently a disconnect in recovering income for sports. It was hard to control use/payment currently. The new pitch would be bookable. There was a lot of concern about the state and use of the grass pitches, and this was under review. Lambeth-based clubs should be prioritised for bookings.

Would a skatepark be part of the future?

The existing skateboard structures came from another park and are no longer fit for purpose. A new skate park is not planned as a modern facility would be large and is not considered a priority in the limited space available.

AOB

Cllr Jim Dickson thanked Lucy and all the trustees/committee. Lambeth was very appreciative of the work FoRP does. He hoped to see a better level of investment in Ruskin Park.

A talk was given by Alex Penn on [Climate Change Resilience in Ruskin Park](#).

The meeting closed