

**Friends of Firs Farm - AGM 2022**  
**The Orange Tree Highfield Road N21 @ 7pm**  
**Minutes**

**The Friends of Firs Farm AGM Minutes- 08/06/2022-** all attendees signed in – separate list for those in attendance (see registration doc).

Apologies from Trustees / Committee: None

**Agenda-** was distributed with no objections.

1. **Agree Minutes / accounts from previous meeting:** last meeting minutes agreed:

**AGM update:**

2. **Update on community hub**

We want the building to be iconic and stylish and to serve all our communities. We have been campaigning for the last 7 years-(since March 2015) now almost at the final hurdle.

2.1. Funding: Fundraising is our main priority Helen Osman and Toni Guiver attended workshop for lottery funding (community fund, heritage fund, arts fund) - all of which we can apply for; looking for other pots of funding to make up shortfall in funding for community hub.

2.2. Concern with rising building costs that might cause a shortfall. Jan costs were c£175,00. Since then, additional 25% increase.

2.3. Planning put in by Chris Ferrari – the aim is to get something operational by end of year 2022 / early spring 2023. NO longer containers- will be in a modular building -lease (7 years- minus a day) conditions stipulated by council. Council going to put the foundations and the utilities in place. Modular will be dropped into place on top of the padstone foundations. Time period- expected to be ready to deliver by 31st December.

2.4. Hub will be a flexible space, autism room (sensory), changing places toilet- unique in an Enfield open space.

2.5. Next steps: Select building contractor (a lengthy process - 5 months to date) and a Firs Farm Hub Operator to operate the building for sustainability. We will own building; they will run building and are responsible for the kitting out of the interior. Once we complete the building then we can hold a launch event and open.

Questions? - No questions.

3. **Heritage Funding**

Louise spoke on the heritage funding: explained three stages of and explained she has collected a good idea of heritage information- asked anyone with further information to get in touch. Also explained looking for more funding to expand project longer term.

4. **London Rivers Week**

Louise spoke about event for London Rivers Week: 17th July. Event being promoted by Thames 21. Will involve a tour of the wetlands and self-led activities.

5. **Finance**

Simon Jarosch (Treasurer) took us through the financial report. – an overview of what has been done throughout the year apart from the Hub.

Good news- information posted on charity commissions website- funds have increased significantly. Funding available for events etc, have increased. Large donations. Majority of money spent on equipment- ponds are clean- previous years more expenses/ greater donations.

#### **6. Crematorium**

Crematorium- great turn out of people – All signed campaign and sent letters in to the LA. We need to ensure it is not on the next Enfield Local Plan. Legal process has to be followed- can't just say it's not going to happen- council informally said not going to happen.

#### **7. Volunteers**

Training for volunteers- needs to be explored

We need more trustees- call for people interested to get in touch.

#### **8. Tree Planting**

Tree planting gone well, 1100 since 2014. Sakura trees now have stakes and protective fence around.

#### **9. Sport**

Sport- press on with hockey and football -sit by the wayside until the hub in place.

#### **10. Wildlife**

Wildlife- Egyptian geese at site – successfully breeding. Water voles as well- for which funding maybe available .

#### **11. Elections of Trustees and committee:**

**Appointment of Trustees-** All members stepped down.

Trustees have said they all stand- elected on block- proposer and second - Richie Hardwich, Nikesh Tailor as second.

**Appointment of Committee :**

All members stepped down: We want to ensure committee can be re-invigorated- volunteering / eco club/ youth and events- whole of Firs.

Claire stepping down.

Nikesh- nominated by Helen - Soulla second for nikesh.

Louise- environment- Helen Osman, Toni second.

#### **End of AGM business**

#### **Future Plans/ Another other business:**

Meet with Enfield council to meet / walk around/ ask community to get involved.

Concerns raised re youngsters 12-15yrs seen vandalising area and breaking branches from trees.

Speaking to safer neighbourhood.

New ward- Highfield ward- split the ward- new councillors- back to the drawing board- build new relationships with the councillors. Council walkabout- senior officers with the council.

**12. Membership – Free**, under current constitution- Raised question of charging? Agreed at this AGM to continue with non-paid membership: no disagreement all trustees agree,

**13. Eco club** massive success- oversubscribed- potential to make greater income. Sunday morning kids club- 4-8. Different activities, crafts etc. finished off with litter pick. Run by Nikesh for 2022.