



Annual General Meeting - Minutes and actions of the meeting

5th June 2025 - Held at Firs Farm Community Hub 7pm

Trustees Present: Toni Guiver (Chair), Chris Ferrary, Becky Beach, Paul Guiver, Simon Jarosch (Treasurer)

Apologies: Carl Redondo

Meeting commenced at 7pm with a welcome, introductions and site H&S from the Chair

1. Minutes from the last public meeting (February 2025) were agreed.

2. Rivers Week presentation at ZSL

The Friends of Firs Farm were pleased to announce their involvement as guest speakers at the Huxley Lecture Theatre, London Zoo. The Rivers Week event organised by Thames21 and conducted in collaboration with representatives from ZSL, GIGL, and the Environment Agency.

The Friends' presentation, titled 'River restoration - A community perspective,' was delivered by a one of the FOFF Trustees. She was supported by volunteers, Louise and Gebru, who shared their personal volunteering journeys and experiences with the audience. Together, they discussed future sustainability challenges, highlighting the persistent issue of limited funding for green and blue spaces.

For example, we described how limited funding has impacted the maintenance of local habitats, making it harder to sustain ongoing restoration efforts. This lack of resources threatens the long-term benefits these community projects aim to provide, such as improved biodiversity and public engagement with nature.

It was announced that the Business of the AGM had begun:

3. AGM report key points from Toni

- Highlight being the maintenance work in the park each Monday & Saturday by volunteers.
- Environment events are well attended especially the pond dipping, world wetlands day, etc.
- The link to GIGL is included to encourage more recording of wildlife as this helps to attract better funding for a green space when we better understand the biodiversity [https://www.gigl.org.uk/Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC - GIGL](https://www.gigl.org.uk/Greenspace%20Information%20for%20Greater%20London%20CIC%20-%20GIGL)
- New Duck feeding station has been well received: Feeding bread is an increasing problem.
- Fencing and gating Firs Farm is still on the agenda for future. Funding is an issue.
- The land known as 144 The Oaks was discussed in brief: an eyesore and attracts much ASB. A medical centre proposal was given permission until it expires, available on the online planning portal. The Friends are still in touch with the council to find a way to improve this area alongside the old changing rooms space known as the compound, as part of the future permanent community and changing rooms space to be in a better position to offer more sprots at Firs Farm. The Friends have suggested in the interim, LBE if possibly making use of the changing rooms across the road at Clowes.

3.1. Hub update from Chris:

- Chris provided an update highlighting the new catering offer which received positive feedback
- Continuous growth since launch in 2024
- Question about profit of hub. Chris explained that Ken, the operator, is set up as a social enterprise which is non-profit. An operating right is paid to FOFF.
- Some small niggles for the building, but overall it's been very successful

3.2. Accounts update from Simon:

- Gift aid has been claimed and included in the accounts.
- Depreciation of building skews the financials as it shows a significant loss, but that's just on paper.
- Gail asked how much was raised from events. Toni said about £2,000 (Halloween & Christmas)
- Corporate events also raised significant sums of money that support the work of the volunteers
- Charity is a going concern and has a reserve policy which is met

3.3. Thank you to Simon Jarosch (Ex Treasurer)

We send our best to Simon Jarosch, our outgoing Treasurer, as he embarks on his future endeavours. We thank him for his hard work in bringing the Community Hub to Firs Farm and to the Charity, and wish him well for the future. Thank you also for the minutes.

4. Elections: Appointment of Trustees ^{*See first table below} In accordance with the constitution, Trustee Members vacate Office but all are eligible for re-election.

All remaining trustees, have been reappointed (proposed and second as per the first table below).

- A welcome to Carl Redondo a returning Treasurer. Carl was the FOFF's first Treasurer in 2014.
- The search goes on for a Chair for the charity, with segmentation of responsibilities into specific roles. Toni has agreed to stand again until we find another Chair.
- Peter suggests we have a role of vice chair – all agreed.
- **Appointment of Committee Members** ^{See 2nd table below} The Committee team are needed to help support the work of the Charity volunteering for future generations and the environment. The Committee is open to new members from the community.

Trustees: Recruitment / Nominations (Maximum 12)

	Trustee Roles	Nominations*	Proposer / Second
1	Chair	Toni Guiver	Gail Nielen. Becky Beach
2	Vice Chair	VACANT	
3	Treasurer	Carl Redondo	Toni Guiver. Simon Jarosch
4	Trustee	Chris Ferrary	Sharon Langrish. Peter Charalambous
5	Communications	Becky Beach	Paul Guiver.
6	Trustee	Paul Guiver	Becky Beach
7	Trustee	Peter Charalambous	Simon Jarosch. Toni Guiver
8	Events	VACANT	
9	Fundraising	VACANT	
10	Secretary	VACANT	
11	Trustee	VACANT	
12	Trustee	VACANT	
*subject to the Trustee recruitment process.			

Committee roles: (Nominations – Max 12)

Committee	Nominations	Proposer / Second
Trustee	From office	N/A
Committee	VACANT	
Committee	VACANT	
Membership Secretary	VACANT	
Social Media	VACANT	
Events	VACANT	
Fundraising	VACANT	
History	VACANT	
Volunteer	VACANT	
Environment	VACANT	
Website	VACANT	
Committee	VACANT	

It was announced that the business of the AGM was completed.

5. AOB:

- 5.1. A music festival for next year was proposed during the meeting. Different proposals were discussed. An events organiser is required to initiate and coordinate events.
- 5.2. Thames21 held a couple of training events at the Hub earlier this year.
- 5.3. Dog walkers don't have a space to leave their dog when they use the facilities. Operator didn't want to have the dog hooks purchased by the Charity within the demise of the building. Most dog walkers use the bike shelter. Exploring ways to install a dog park by the concrete blocks was not welcomed by dog walkers to date.
- 5.4. Use of rooms, sometimes during the day as well as evenings.
- 5.5. Actions: FOFF to look at installing a mini library outside, completing the Champions Wall, FOFF area in the Hub, the proposed sensory garden to the rear of the Hub. And shelter to the left hand side FOFF to install the Champions wall.

Meeting Adjourned.

**General Meeting Dates: Thursday 18th September 2025 7pm Venue: Firs Farm Community Hub.
Tuesday 9th December 7pm Venue: Firs Farm Community Hub.**