

Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

Notes of meeting held on 13th July 2024 at the Earl Beatty

Present

Martin
Bernie
John
Jonna

Copies

Caroline
Ruth

1) Safeguarding

DBS should be obtained for all over 18s in any role

The normal rule is that an adult will be just a few minutes away and available to go to the park if needed during opening hours

If a child is working on their own the adult should actually be in the park

(post meeting note: Emily worked alone on 14/07/2024 and these arrangements were carried out)

ACTION Martin arrange DBS applications for John and Bernie

2) Blossom House

We discussed having a closer relationship with Blossom House (a private school for children with special needs)

The school head had said that they would like to have some space so the children can do gardening

ACTION Martin to contact the head (Joanna Burgess)

<https://www.blossomhouseschool.co.uk>

(post meeting note: I have had a conversation with James (Operations Manager) who confirmed the desire for some gardening space and to give the children more contact with nature. They are considering buying a farm.

3) History of the Friends

Jonna filled in a few more details about the origin of the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields.

This was in reaction to a proposal by AFC Wimbledon to take over the site
The first chair was Howard Leigh (Jonna's husband)

The group expanded when the proposal to close the paddling pool was made

4) Fulham Football Club

Fulham have, apparently, proposed investing £1.5m in the playing fields - including restoring the pavilion. We don't know the details of the proposal but would not want to see the Little Leagues or Motspur Park FC displaced

ACTION Martin to contact Fulham FC

5) Green Flag

The committee members accompanied the Council Team and the Green Flag judge (post meeting note: Green Flag has been re-awarded. We should communicate this to the community)

6) Centenary of opening of Motspur Park station

2025 is the centenary of the opening of Motspur Park station which was the catalyst for the development of the whole area

Sara McAlister has proposed producing bunting with banners produced by members of the community

Toby (chair of the Friends of the Library) was organising the celebrations but its not clear what progress has been made

ACTION John speak to Toby

7) Posters

We agreed to produce some new poster designs with a look and feel appropriate to the park

These could give details of meetings, litter picks and other activities

We need 4 x A3, 6 x A4 and 2 x A4 laminated

ACTION

Martin produce design

Bernie produce and display posters

8) idVerde

idVerde are Merton Council's maintenance contractor for green spaces

The contract is due for renegotiation next year (but may be extended)

The Council officers are very critical of idVerde saying that they are very inflexible and demand excessive payment for contract variations

They have not impressed us by their driving vehicles off the paths and damaging the grass

<https://www.idverde.co.uk/>

9) The Hut

The Hut is in need of some maintenance

However an ideal solution would be a new more spacious Hut
with better equipment (eg coffee machine)
The existing structure is metal framed
Other materials (eg recycled plastics) may be available

Jonna offered some funding and the Friends have some funds available
Bernie suggested that we think about what the optimal site would be

10) Leaflet

We discussed producing a leaflet which could be delivered to residents
to encourage use of the park and to recruit volunteers

11) Litter Pick

At the next litter pick it was agreed to try and shift some of the larger items from
the woods

Next meetings

Sunday 11th August 1030 Earl Beatty followed by litter pick
Saturday 14th September 1000 meeting Earl Beatty
Sunday 15th September 1000 litter pick