

## Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

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

Present

Martin  
John  
Ruth (litter pick)

As there were only two participants this was a very informal meeting  
We reviewed the outstanding actions as follows:

### i) Safeguarding

All adults supervising the Hut need DBS according to our safeguarding policy  
This year we have not been compliant with this  
DBS still outstanding for John, Bernie, Kate  
Jonna has her DBS now (please confirm)

NB DBS certificates don't have expiry dates but are usually renewed every 3 years

#### **ACTION**

15/09/2024 Martin please complete  
13/10/2024 Martin please complete

### ii) Blossom House

Jonna has made contact with Lucinda Leavers ("Cinders")  
and we have decided that Jonna can agree with her the use of  
space in the crazy golf area for gardening

we might need Blossom House to sign a licence agreement to ensure they  
do not have permanent rights

#### **ACTION**

13/09/2024 Jonna reach agreement with Blossom House  
13/09/2024 Martin to inform Andrew Kaufman  
this was done but Andrew did not respond  
15/10/2024 Jonna reach agreement with Blossom House

### iii) Fulham

see notes below of the meeting with Fulham Foundation

### iv) Posters

#### **ACTION**

13/09/2024 Martin to design some new poster templates  
13/09/2024 Bernie to print, laminate and display

this was not done and there were no posters for the 13th September  
15/10/2024 Martin to design some new poster templates  
15/10/2024 Bernie to print,laminate and display

v) Distance Markers

Dundonald Recreation Ground has distance markers  
We have requested that Merton Council provide them for us but failing that  
we could do it ourselves

Martin has informed Andrew Kaufman but received no response

**ACTION**

15/10/2024 No further actions decided yet

vi) Website and social media

We need to have a presence on the internet and on social media  
Martin offered to work on the website  
We agreed that this would be an ideal role for a young person

**ACTION**

John to contact all those who have worked at the Hut to see if any are  
interested and have the necessary skills  
15/10/2024 John do this

vii) On 13/09/2024 we discussed our plans for the next year

We would like to achieve the following:

- a) replace the Hut with a larger and more fit for purpose structure  
To include proper water/waste water facilities
- b) to make a start on the boardwalk project - particularly the  
design and the route
- c) to organise a couple of events - even if very modest in scope  
The dog show still a possibility  
An event connected with the Motspur Park station centenary  
(a picnic-in-the-park was suggested)  
Events in conjunction with the Scouts

**ACTIONS**

Martin to inform Andrew Kaufman of our intentions and to see if the Council  
would fund some of the Hut replacement eg the water supply  
Martin please confirm you have done this

John to find out what bookings exist for the playing fields for next year  
and what dates would be free for events  
15/10/2024 John do this

Martin to engage with Scouts

Next meeting

proposed dates

Sunday November 17th Earl Beatty 1030 Litter Pick 1200

Sunday December 8th 2024

Sunday January 5th 2025

Sunday February 2nd 2025

Sunday March 2nd 2025

Sunday April 6th 2025 (note Easter is 20/04/2025)

Sunday May 4th 2025 (bank holiday weekend)

### Notes of meeting with Fulham Foundation

held at Fulham training Ground at 1800 on Thursday 17th October 2024

Although Martin had written to Andrew Kaufman asking for some details about the rumoured Fulham proposals he received no reply and was not invited (until Anthony Hopkins prompted by John)

Also the Residents' Association was not invited

This shows that the Council's focus is entirely on sports and not the other uses of the playing fields

Present

Bernie MacAlister

John Oliver

Caroline Cooper-Marbiah (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Sport)

Anthony Hopkins (Director, Merton Council)

David Gentles (Merton Council)

Mike McSweeney (Fulham Foundation)

Richard Beal (Wimbledon Hawks)

Andy Parrot

Gary Hammocks (Motspur Park FC)

Sam Lambton (Raynes Park Little Leagues)

Barry Sawyer

Chris (the caretaker at the Pavilion)

Sarah (representing Cheeky Chimps)

Mike McSweeney said that he represented the Fulham Foundation which is the charitable arm of Fulham Football Club

At the moment the Foundation has temporary accommodation for its staff and activities (in Worcester Park) and is looking for somewhere permanent

There are various options being explored but Sir Joseph Hood would be a good site due to its proximity to their other facilities

They have 50 staff but most are working remotely so the requirement is for a hub

They also need facilities for autistic children (sensory room), somewhere dementia friendly, a classroom, coaching facilities etc

The total area would be about 2500 square feet

They emphasised that they were not looking to displace any current users of the site

They said they hadn't got any plans drawn up (which was disingenuous as they did have plans for a new building but they didn't want to scare us by producing them)

They would have been happy to upgrade the Pavilion - but equally could create something new

They have some capital funds available for investment

They need a fairly quick decision (say 6 months)

Fulham have been talking to the Council for a year

They haven't got very far!

Anthony Hopkins was keen to get all the sporting groups on board

They generally were OK as long as the existing usage was continued

Hopkins was keen to instruct consultants to get to work on producing proposals

It seemed as though he wanted to do this anyway and wasn't particularly linked to the Fulham suggestions

The Council have "becoming London's Borough of Sport" as a key strategic objective and it looks like they want to develop SJH.

Comments made:

Bernie: don't forget that the park is used by residents for many purposes not only sport

Chris (caretaker) - flooding is an issue (various promises about that have not been kept)

Sam: car parking is a big issue

My thoughts:

I felt that the Council were not going to respond quickly enough to make a deal with Fulham

It was very encouraging that investment funds were available and we should think carefully about what we might want from it

We need to try and get involved in the process (eg the remit to consultants)

We need to get local people on board