



The Friends of Croydon Road Recreation Ground

Meeting: AGM, 30th November 2021
Venue: Azelia Hall, Beckenham

AGM Apologies

Roy Dixon
Stephen Athanasiou (Purcell)
Daniel Martin (Purcell)
Amy Rogers (idverde)
Wendy Faulkner
Lisa-Marie Faulkner-Brent

AGM Attendees

Cllr Christine Harris (Kelsey and Eden Park Ward)
Penny Read (idverde Community Manager)
David Braybrook (LB Bromley, Strategic Commissioning Officer)
Liz Smith (Purcell)
Chris Phillips
Sarah Phillips
Terry Guntrip
Brian Blandford
John Backway
Martin Hewitt
Banbar Anderson
Greg Kerris
Tim Nicholls
Des Knight
Brenda Knight
Roberta Welham
Dave Cook
Anne Leehally

1.0 Minutes of the AGM 25.11.2019

1.1 It was agreed that the minutes were a correct record of the previous AGM.
Prop: Roberta Welham; Sec: Sarah Phillips

1.2 Matters arising: nil.

2.0 Reports from the officers

2.1 Chairman's report

The Chairman said the pandemic had prevented there being an AGM in 2020 and thanked all those who had assisted the Friends and the cause of the Recreation Ground over the last two difficult years. Thanks were due to the officers and committee members in particular

Accounts: Acting Treasurer: Sarah Phillips. Sarah's accounts were presented to the AGM
Membership Secretary: Roy Dixon has kept membership details up to date but has had to move recently due to family reasons.

Website and newsletter: Terry Guntrip has kept the website up to date with news on events and the bandstand restoration project and the website is both informative and interactive

Events coordinator: Wendy Faulkner and Brian Blandford have done a great job organising the Oddity festival

Independent examiner: Terry Guntrip has examined our accounts

The Chairman also thanked John Backway for highlighting things that need improving around the park in a July 2021 report he prepared for the committee.

Listing: both the gate lodge and the bandstand are now listed grade 2, and this had helped to raise the significance of the Recreation Ground and the importance of the bandstand restoration project.

The programme for the bandstand restoration is now showing on the website, and in broad brush terms the programmed dates are as follows:

- Architect proposals delivery by April 2022
- Apply for consents April 2022
- Appoint principal contractor in June 2022
- Works from September 2020 to March 2023
- Unveiling event April 2023.

Events in 2021:

14th August 2021 the Oddity Festival.

4th September Soul Town Festival

6th November: fireworks: The Friends had assisted the Scouts

The Bowls club, tennis and football teams

The Paddling Pool continues to be used and is popular but needs new waterproofing layer

Conclusion

The BECREC grew out of Public Health Act 1875 when parks were developed in suburbs and small towns for recreation and an expression of civic pride. This sense of purpose is as relevant now as it has ever been, especially during the pandemic. Our objective over the next year should be to raise the profile of the Friends.

2.2 Treasurer's Report

The Acting Treasurer presented the attached accounts for the year to 30th September 2020 and for the year to 30th September 2021. A vote to approve the accounts was proposed by Sarah Phillips and seconded by Terry Guntrip and the accounts were unanimously approved.

The Acting Treasurer explained that the accounts were split 3 ways into the main Friends account with two supplementary accounts for the bandstand and paddling pool projects.

2.3 Membership Secretary

Roy Dixon was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness and no report was submitted. There are approximately 85 members.

2.4 Webmaster Report

The website has been updated with information about the Recreation Ground facilities and with news such as the listing of buildings in the park and the bandstand restoration programme and contains a link to the latest newsletter with a joining application form. The Website also contains details of the history of the Recreation Ground and links to organisations associated with the Recreation Ground.

2.5 Events Coordinator

Brian Blandford said that at the 14th of August 2021 Oddity Festival, over £5,000 was raised towards the bandstand!

The Friends had assisted with the Scouts firework display, where many thousands of people were present. It was good that Beckenham was showing itself open for business where parks in other areas were closed. A Christmas Carol event was being planned for 22nd December.

4.0 Review of park facilities and maintenance

The chairman circulated a document entitled: "July 2021 observations and recommendations for Friends Committee" that had helpfully been prepared by John Backway. The document appraised the following:

- Signage and community notice boards
- litter bins
- Toilets
- Bandstand

Signage: The signage in the park was in a very poor state of repair with incorrect information. Penny Read said the Council were aiming to have a new Bromley brand of signage in due course. The chairman said this seemed an unnecessarily cumbersome

process and the need was urgent, especially given the news on the bandstand. Cllr Harris would ask about available funding. The Friends notice board had disappeared. Good examples of signage were Beckenham Place Park and the Friends noticeboard in Kelsey Park.

Litter bins: Litter bins are the wrong design and tend to overspill

Toilets: The Recreation Ground toilets are in a terrible state. Penny Read said there was due to be a condition/ refurbishment survey.

Bandstand: see item 5

The chairman said the committee will campaign to rectify all the above, and fund raise if necessary. There were health and safety concerns with each of these items. Also the pathways were overdue for resurfacing. All of the above needed works over and above standard maintenance.

A comment was made that the Council should not expect all of these maintenance items to be paid for by voluntary fundraising: it was Bromley Council's duty to maintain safe parks.

5.0 Bandstand conservation

Purcell Architects (Liz Smith) presented their draft proposals, and the following points were noted:

Liz Smith:

With HLF funding, a ten-year maintenance plan is needed. There is a one-year long defects rectification period after completion, but this will not cover maintenance

Purcell are working on the Heritage statement, which is a design tool, which describes the fabric significance of the building, which was made in 1891, and the restoration strategy

Purcell are seeking to revive its Victorian Glory

Purcell are working up the design brief

The ironwork is in good condition

Keen to hear the views of stakeholders, e.g., Bromley Council and others who have helped fund the project

Gate off the main bandstand level

Gate removed for access to bricks

Consideration of impeding anti-social behaviour e.g., anti-skateboard studs

A cost plan has begun

Will develop a communication strategy with a newsletter and signs around the park

Lighter coloured bound gravel around base

Chris Phillips: Could we consider gold leaf to the corona? Liz Smith said this could be a photogenic feature if the bandstand is used for wedding photos

Also, LBB should advise on who will manage the bandstand on completion of the works, both in terms of regular maintenance and management of events.

John Backway: not everyone will treat the new bandstand with respect

Other comments:

Consider Bowie evidence/imagery e.g. lightning bolt, perhaps some lines from his songs in the path. Could be a circular plaque in the centre of the raised podium

Consider external power points and lighting and possible CCTV

Need to update those who have bought bricks

Consider a wider perimeter with a flower bed at the outer edge of the octagon extending under the railings

LBB will update local Ward Councillors with progress information. Cllr Harris will inform her residents of progress via her newsletter.

The Chairman asked the meeting for the support in principle for the Purcell proposals, bearing in mind the comments made. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Roberta Welham. The vote in support was unanimous.

6.0 Review of events held in the Recreation Ground

The Soultown event was well-attended, and a comment was made on how good it was, although the numbers present had overwhelmed the facilities. There were reports of “fake tickets”. Idverde said they charged money for the event in return for Park Services. The chairman said it was disappointing that Soul Town had not seen fit to contribute to the Friends or the bandstand renewal.

The Friends had assisted with the Fireworks display organised by the scouts. Post-meeting note: The scouts have made a most generous donation of £800 to the Friends.

7.0 Election of officers

A request was made for any offers or nominations from the floor for any of the substantive posts on the committee. None were voiced, so voting proceeded thus:

Post	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded	Vote
Chair	Chris Phillips	Brian Blandford	Roberta Welham	Unanimous
Acting Treasurer	Sarah Phillips	Brian Blandford	Chris Phillips	Unanimous
Membership secretary	John Backway	Chris Phillips	Brian Blandford	Unanimous
Webmaster	Terry Guntrip	John Backway	Brian Blandford	Unanimous
Events co-ordinators	Wendy Faulkner Brian Blandford	Chris Phillips	John Backway	Unanimous
Committee Members	Cllr Harris Lisa-Marie Faulkner-Brent	Chris Phillips	Terry Guntrip	Unanimous
Independent examiner	Terry Guntrip	Cllr Harris	Chris Phillips	Unanimous

8.0 Any other business

Next committee meeting to be arranged in January.

Dave Cook said he would be willing to help at events.