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## **Friends of Ravenscourt Park Minutes of First Annual General Meeting on 1 July 2009**

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### **Committee Members Present**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Chris Allen       | Chairman   |
| John Bellringer   | Secretary  |
| Janis Cammell OBE | Note taker |
| John Goodier      |            |
| Annabelle May     |            |
| Angela Clarke     |            |
| Victoria Webb     |            |

### **Officials**

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Paul Bassi  | LBHF               |
| Rob Kelly   | LBHF               |
| Stan Davies | Parks Constabulary |

In addition a list of those members present at the AGM are attached at **Annex A**.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Jennifer Vaughan, David Walton, Annabel Clarke, Fiona Mansfield and Amanda Lloyd-Harris.

### **1 - Chairman's Welcome**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the first AGM of The Friends of Ravenscourt Park Group, and invited them to introduce themselves.

### **2 - Update Report on Action since Inaugural Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November**

2.1 Introducing this item, the Chairman explained that following the inaugural meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November, the interim Committee had taken on board the suggestions put forward by Members for redrafting the draft Constitution. The current draft was more concise, and the clause referring to ex-Councillors had been deleted. Also a draft Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed with the Council.

2.2 Since November, the Committee had made representation opposing the Fairtrade Banners, as it was felt that this would set a precedent for displaying banners not directly related to events in the Park. Also the Committee had been invited to comment on the Council's Park Management Plan, but due to the understandable tight deadline had only been able to comment in general terms. However, this was a living

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document and there would be an opportunity to comment more fully later in the year. Members of the Committee had also taken part in a 'Walk About' and 'Green Flag' inspection.

2.3 Victoria Webb reported that the 'Walk About' with Council officers had taken place in late March. The opportunity was taken to point out areas of concern, such as sunken drain covers, unplanted area near pond (which now had a notice explaining the reason why planting could not yet take place), and boundaries relating to the basketball court. As yet there had been no official feedback, but there were signs that matters were being acted upon.

2.4 Explaining the aim of the 'Green Flag' national scheme, John Goodier said the award was designed for Parks which were welcoming, healthy and well maintained, having sustainable systems, conservation and heritage, community involvement and with an associated management and delivery plan. John had represented the Friends Group during the recent inspection, which he thought went well and had been an interesting process. Paul Bassi confirmed the outcome of the inspection was expected imminently.

### **3 - Decisions**

#### **3A – Draft Constitution**

3.1 The Chairman proposed the following amendments to the current draft:

- Clause 19, line 2 to read as follows:  
"....signed by the Treasurer and one **of** two other Committee members"
- Clause 19, line 4 to read as follows:  
"keep proper accounts **of** income and expenditure"

Members endorsed and adopted the amended constitution.

#### **3B – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

3.2 During discussion, clarification was sought on Clause 2 "principal user group", and it was explained that the Council envisaged the Friends as being the initial consultation point, and it was incumbent on the Friends to consult other groups and bodies. The Council legally, in such matters as Licensing, were obliged to consult more widely. Similarly on Clause 9 on political impartiality, this was aimed at party politically focussed activities. The members were happy for the Committee to proceed with the MOU.

#### **3C – Appointment of Committee**

3.3 Members expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by the interim Committee, and agreed the appointment of the Committee, comprising the following members:

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Chris Allen  
John Bellringer  
Janis Cammell OBE  
John Goodier  
Annabelle May  
Angela Clarke  
Victoria Webb  
Jennifer Vaughan [subject to her confirmation of willing to stand]

### **3D – Annual Subscription**

3.4 Members agreed that the Annual Subscription should be £5. The Chairman said the next step would be to set up bank accounts and to appoint a Treasurer.

### **4 – “What Friends Groups Can Do” – a talk by John Goodier**

4.1 John touched on his experiences of other Friends Groups across London. Friends Groups provided Councils with a focus point to talk to about issues concerning individual Parks, and were particularly relevant in connection with applying for Green Flag status. The sort of activities Friends Groups could become involved in ranged from volunteering to help with planting, historical research and non invasive archaeology. Friends Groups could also fund raise to help with supply of benches, replanting trees and other schemes. For instance in Dukes Meadows, Friends had renovated buildings for use as artist studios. Areas for consideration in connection with Ravenscourt Park were a tree trail, an ice age trail, organising historic walks around the Park or other Parks, and a regular Newsletter.

### **5 – Forthcoming Events in the Park**

5.1 The Chairman announced that Garden Opera would be staging the 'Barber of Seville' at 6pm on 11 September. There would also be a consultation meeting on Licensing arrangements at 6.30pm in the Teahouse on 22 July.

### **6 – Comments and Suggestions**

6.1 During discussion, the following suggestions were made:

- Need for play equipment for older children eg skateboard facility. Paul Bassi confirmed that the Council had received a Government grant to develop adventure play facilities across the whole of Hammersmith and Fulham, and consultation would take place with the Friends. A wider consultation meeting with the Mayor would take place in August. It was pointed out that adjacent residents would need to be consulted on possible sites for such a play area.
- Friends would welcome a feedback report on the 'Walk About'.

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- Concerns were expressed about the location of the Polish Memorial. The upshot of the discussion was that at some appropriate future date, negotiations should be set in train to move the memorial to a more appropriate location in keeping with its design.
- On the question of the Academy, it was understood that their plans for building changing rooms and toilet facilities in the park had been dropped. There was also disquiet about block booking by the Academy of the all weather court and tennis courts. The Friends would monitor the situation.
- On control of dogs in the Park, it was explained that the bye-laws had been changed. Dogs were required to be under control, and the Parks constabulary had the authority to ask owners to put their dogs on a lead. Penalty tickets were also issued for dog fouling.
- On derelict buildings behind the Teahouse, it was confirmed these were being used as storage facilities for Park equipment.
- The AGM of the Friends of Bishops Park would take place on 23 September in St. Eltheldreda Church, 286 Fulham Palace Road, Fulham, London SW6 6JF, and Friends of Ravenscourt Park were welcome to attend.