



Minutes of Trustees ordinary quarterly meeting 17th April 2023

Welcome

Present: Richard Bartholomew, Nick Dimant (Deputy Chair), Arlette Garcia, Karen Goodman (Treasurer), Ross Huston, Suzanne King (Chair), Samuel Levy, Hilda de Souza (Membership Secretary)

Apologies: Simon Duke, Danny Rich

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Accepted.

2. Financial report

Karen reported that there was £3,922.18 cash in the bank and there was no outstanding debt. Of this money only £82 is restricted. It was agreed that the bulk of the remaining funds would be allocated to planting.

3. Current projects

Arlette reported that the alder in the Orchard looks like it has probably died. It was also possible that the crown of the willow has died or is seriously weakened. Suzanne said that the LBB had previously offered to replace any trees that they have planted that have now died. It was agreed to review the trees in the autumn and make further request to LBB if necessary and choose suitable replacements, such as a field maple for the alder.

Karen reported that the green field had been seeded with wildflowers.

Richard reported that many of the newly planted plugs had been dug up, probably by squirrels. It was agreed that future plantings of plugs in vulnerable areas such as the sandy mounds would probably be best avoided.

4. Future projects and funding

Suzanne reported that an application for a type 1 path in the Orchard was being prepared. It was agreed that Arlette would prepare a specification for the path. It was agreed that we would proceed with the application.

ACTION SK/AG

There was discussion around a range of future projects and it was agreed that:

- More bulbs should be planted
- Planting of lavender deferred until next spring
- We should explore a new location for a fernery

ACTION RB

ACTION AG



Friends of Finchley Way Open Space

- We should create another bug hotel from the remaining pallets. Richard to choose the site **ACTION RB**
- We should build a hibernaculum for amphibians. The first step will be to select and excavate a suitable area **ACTION RB**
- Suzanne would approach Andrew Arliss to ask if LBB would test the water at the surface near the brick walls for safety or pollutants **ACTION SK**
- Explore planting other plants such as reeds in damp areas **ACTION RB/AG**
- We should leave the surplus sand and ceramic mounds where they are. Arlette and Richard to decide whether to seed these areas **ACTION RB/AG**
- Nick would review the location, size and use of the composting and work areas and investigate whether a contractor should be asked to shred the current compost pile **ACTION ND**

5. Work parties

After some discussion it was agreed that we would retain having two work parties a month. It was recognised that some sessions would be shorter than others. Suzanne reminded the meeting that any suggestions for future tasks should be sent to her. **ACTION SK**

7. AOB

Richard reported that the animal recognition boards have been pulled down. It was agreed that Suzanne, Karen and Samuel would investigate reprinting the designs and look at costings and options for securing the boards going forward. **ACTION SK/KG/SL**

Suzanne suggested that the constitution should be changed so that in future papers would be sent out one week before a meeting as opposed to the two currently mandated. This was agreed. **ACTION SK**

Samuel reported that insect numbers around the new mounds are already growing. Insects sighted include Hairy-footed Flower Bee, Andrena Bicolor and Nomad sp. It was agreed that we would not disturb the mounds again until October when the insects are more dormant. Samuel also offered to submit a piece for the newsletter about this topic. **ACTION SL**

Arlette suggested that she submit a list of new projects or enhancements for consideration, including some more ideas to be gleaned from the John Little garden. **ACTION AG**

There was a general discussion that overall we were very pleased with the success rate of the whip and bulb plantings. This gives encouragement for future plans.