



# Woodcote Millennium Green Trust

Charity Registered Number 1075872

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## **2015-16 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 at Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Road, Epsom

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mark Swan, Chairman of the Trustees, welcomed Patrons, Friends and local residents to the AGM.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

John and Maggie Parsloe, Cybil Lacey

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting (4.3.15)**

- i. Accuracy -The minutes were noted as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- ii. Actions taken:
  - a. 6-It has subsequently been discovered that the NZ Pygmy weed from the pond needs specialist destruction under license.
  - b. 6-There has been no response from the RAC club.
  - c. 6-The electricity substation has now been demolished, there is still some work to be done to restore the site.
  - d. 7ii-The car reported as dumped has gone.
  - e. 7iii-The diseased trees have been felled.

### **4. Trustee's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31.12.15**

This has been an exciting year for the Trust. The paths continue to draw positive comments and have served as good promotion for the Green. Thanks again to Ron Coll, Quantity Surveyor, for putting together the specification for tender and overseeing the work.

A major planting programme was undertaken in November, 400 saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust and were planted to restock trees and hedgerows. The preparation and planting took place over several successive weekends in November and involved over 60 volunteers. Many new people came forward and Jason Cowling reported that he has 16 new names to his email distribution list for the maintenance sessions. A special thanks to Daisy Hawken for knocking on doors and enlisting volunteers. Also to Debbie Saxby and Dietland for providing refreshments. Through the project the Trust was able to support several students working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, many thanks to them also.

**Finances** – Please see full report

Jeremy Hawken provided a summary of the Trust's financial position. Income for the year was lower than in previous years, with an income of £1,318 including interest as a result of donations from patrons and via the newsletter. Maintenance costs included £420 on fertilizer for the sapling-planting project. The largest item of expenditure was £36K for the paths; the CAF Equity Fund was sold to help pay for this. A Gift Aid refund of £1000 has been received.

The Trust aims to keep at least 18 months worth of running costs, estimated at £3-5K per year, plus £2-3K in reserve in its general funds. At the time of the report the Trust had £11,775 in general funds. The Trust is currently therefore in a good financial position and with the recent laying of the new paths is at the beginning of its next 10-15 year cycle. New projects will require additional fundraising and the Trust and its friends should be alert to any grants that may be available.

## **5. Pond Refurbishment**

Some initial enquiries have already been made into the pond refurbishment. Some issues that have been identified are the need for the invasive NZ Pygmy weed to be disposed of under license. Also, the puddled clay previously used to line the pond is no longer available. A firm project / business plan is needed in order to identify costs and help with fundraising and also to bid for any available grants. Jason Cowling is going to meet with Kevin Barker from Earthbound Services who is going to give an opinion on the available options.

## **6. Future Plans and Suggestions**

## **7. AOB**

- i)** Pedestrian Crossing- A new pedestrian crossing has been agreed by Surrey County Council, to cross from behind the hospital to approximately the position of the sun-dial. The Trust have been asked whether it would like the bench, sign and bin to be moved to this new position so that people cross directly to this point. There was a lot of discussion about whether this crossing was needed and the preferred site. However it was concluded that the role of the Trust was to comment only in relation to how the crossing directly impacts on the Green, specifically whether the items in question should be moved. Residents could comment individually on the plans when they are advertised. (In email correspondence after the meeting it was agreed that SCC should be asked to leave the items in position for now.)
- ii)** Jason Cowling has been making arrangements with tree surgeons for some work to various trees.
- iii)** Luke Jennings provided the figures for the website traffic. Last year there were 469 users spending an average of 1 min 20 sec on the site. Key words / phrases were Millennium Green, Woodcote, Epsom Guardian and How to

make a human sundial. Most users were from the UK, but a quarter were from Brazil, others were from Italy, India and Botswana.

- iv)** Mark Swan reported that 3 Trustees were coming to the end of their term: Chris Frost will renew his term, John Parsloe will continue if needed but is happy to step down if someone with legal experience can come forward. Mark Swan also coming to end of term but is remaining.
- v)** Debbie Saxby and Emma Swan expressed their thanks to the Trustees for all that has been achieved.
- vi)** Mark Swan thanked John Parsloe who has kindly provided the refreshments.

The meeting then closed.