



# Woodcote Millennium Green Trust

Charity Registered Number 1075872

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## Minutes of the seventy-first meeting of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust at 8.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 6 Sunnybank, Epsom

Present: Mark Swan, Jeremy Hawken, Helen Heath, Luke Jennings, Brian Saxby, Jason Cowling, Liz Frost, John Parsloe, Andrew Broadbent, Chris Frost

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies. MS welcomed Andrew Broadbent, Head of Governance and Estates ESUH to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trustees**
  - a. **Accuracy** -The Chairman was authorised to sign the Minutes as correct.
  - b. **Actions taken:**
    - 5b Re pond**-Covered later in meeting.
    - AOB:L** BS has purchased a laminator
    - AOB:G** JC not purchased bulbs yet, wait until next autumn now to plant spring bulbs. Vouchers expire at the end of 2017.

### 3. Election of Chair

Under the Deed of Trust constituting the Trust the Trustees are required at their first ordinary meeting in each year to elect one of their number as Chairman of their meetings until the commencement of the first ordinary meeting of the following year. Mark Swan was re-elected unanimously.

### 4. Financial report

JH presented the financial report.

There has been little change in the financial situation since the last meeting. There are currently around £14K in general funds and thus if the pond were to be refurbished as per the quote (£12K – see 8) this would leave very little remaining. There was a discussion around whether the patrons fund could be used for capital projects, JP confirmed (after the meeting via email) that it cannot. JP suggested that now could be a good time in the markets for the Trust to consider selling some shares. JH said that the shares should be seen as a long term investment and should only be sold if the money was likely to be needed in the next 3 to 4 years.

### 5. AGM Planning - 8th March 8pm Epsom Sports Club

- a. JP kindly offered to bring glasses, wine and soft drinks
- b. Discussion around whether anybody could be asked to speak, JH agreed to ask Freya Hawken as previous D of E volunteer.
- c. Debbie Saxby has kindly offered to take the minutes at the AGM as HH is unable to take them.

## 6. Health and Safety

Large, dead tree needs removing, Dan Nicholls has quoted £100 to remove, agreed to accept this quote. Dan kindly offered his services free of charge at other times for smaller jobs.

## 7. Newsletter

Sarah Nicholls has kindly helped with the content and the writing of the next newsletter. MS to add a section asking that if anyone knows the details (electronic preferably) of people who have moved away and would still like to receive a copy of the newsletter, then to pass those details on. AB to write a small article on the Green for the ESUH Trust 'ALL Staff' news-email. It was decided that the deadline for the financial figures was end of Jan 2017. LJ to investigate online printing costs as becoming increasingly difficult for JH to arrange printing at work. The newsletter needs to be delivered weekend Feb 4<sup>th</sup> on order to publicise AGM. It was agreed to change the newsletter back to biannual in order to generate funds.

## 8. Maintenance

**a. Purchase of tools and equipment-** Nil new. Mower service due at £200

**b. Special Projects-** Pond

CF explained that the pond was dug and clay lined in 1992 and was filled by the fire service. The pond is now full of reeds and New Zealand Pygmy weed which are threatening to take over the pond. The pond was last cleared in 2009 by Ken Cross who used a digger to clear at a cost of about £2k. The presence of the NZ pygmy weed was not established at this time.

MS has had advice that the reeds may be managed by the use of Roundup which is freely available and not detrimental to wildlife. MS met with Robin Moor of Wildlife Pond Company who advised that the pond is surrounded by trees and there is the danger of the pond turning back to woodland. He suggested making sure that the surrounding trees are cut right back and that saplings and brambles are not allowed to encroach on the pond. Although not able to undertake the work himself Robin suggested another company who might be able to clear the pond, they came and estimated that it would cost in the region of £50 to £100K to completely re-model the pond

A further quote was obtained from Crosdil Leisure who estimated £9k plus VAT to clear the pond. NB It has now been ascertained that the NZ pygmy weed can be cleared from the pond and buried on the Trust land where it will die back harmlessly, it needs only to be disposed of in a controlled manner if it leaves the Green.

After a full discussion of the possible options it was agreed that the quote should not be accepted at the moment as it was felt this was a significant increase from the £2k spent in 2009 and there were also concerns about damage to the clay lining. It was agreed that Roundup should be used on the weeds during late Spring when the reeds start growing and that if they die back sufficiently it may be possible to ask a contractor to clear for a much smaller sum.

- c. **Other maintenance items** –JP suggested that the large oak at the end of Woodcote Hurst should have the space around it cleared fully to allow full prominence to this lovely tree.

**9. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 34 Sunnybank

**10. AOB**

- a. AB apologised for the smoking by staff on the Green and showed us a picture of the bins that he is planning to install on some of the seats. He is trying to organize a rota of hospital staff to help clear the cigarette butts.
- b. CF mentioned that, during the installation of the pedestrian crossing, some saplings had been lost/damaged towards Pine Hill having had spoil from one of the holes dumped on them. JC said that as many as 30 saplings had been lost. It was agreed that we ought to write a letter to the council asking them to either replace the saplings or compensate us for £500. JP to draft a letter to email to MS who will write on our behalf.
- c. JC suggested that as part of our fund raising we could have another Fete which proved very successful in 2010. CF said that in just three years the Trust will have been going for 20 years. It was agreed that, if we were to have another Fete, then that would be the right time to hold one. MS said that the planning for such an event should start in two years time and a subcommittee should be set up with a trustee as Chair and volunteers from outside the Trust.

The meeting closed at 10:17pm