

## **AGM and Ordinary Minutes (combined) of the Friends of Albert Road Recreation Ground and Play Area Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014, The Pavilion**

Apologies: Joanna Christophides, Caroline Mckaskill (Bowling and Golf Club)

Present: Peter Droussiotis, Tony Healey (LBH), Robby Sukhdeo, Gianluca LoIacono, Paul Short (APS), Eddie Webb, Sonya Sabbagh, Lucas Burridge, Kirstie Watkins

### **1. AGM Minutes**

Minutes of last year's AGM: Agreed

The Chair did not table a written annual report this year, but did go verbally on record to reiterate the achievements of the past year as well as the objectives for the coming year.

#### **AGM Officers elected:**

- ❖ Peter re-elected as Chair (nominated by Robby, seconded by Gianluca)
- ❖ Eddie re-elected as Vice Chair (nominated by Peter, seconded by Lucas)
- ❖ Joanna re-elected as Secretary (nominated by Peter, seconded by Gianluca)
- ❖ Robby re-elected as Event/PR coordinator (nominated by Peter, seconded by Lucas)
- ❖ Lucas re-elected as Marketing & Fundraising Officer
- ❖ Gianluca re-elected as Treasurer (nominated by Peter, seconded by Eddie)
- ❖ Louis Webster re-elected as ordinary committee member
- ❖ Sonya Sabbagh re-elected as ordinary committee member
- ❖ Kirstie Watkins elected as ordinary committee member
- ❖ Ex officio members, Shane Claridge, and Paul Short representing Rhodes Avenue Primary and Alexandra Park School respectively reaffirmed
- ❖ Ex officio member Tony Healey representing Haringey Council reaffirmed

### **2. Ordinary Meeting Minutes:**

1. Peter stressed on the importance to encourage as many friends and acquaintances to attend our monthly meetings, with the hope to also see new faces from the community taking more of an active role in the work FARRG does, particularly in terms of also renewing members of the committee, officers and ordinary members alike. The whole committee was unanimous in its wish to see more female members on the panel. The committee also highlighted the main objective of the year was to ensure that we work harder in order to get the Bowling Club off the ground. On that note it was suggested (and later decided) to set up a

- separate sub-committee for the Bowling Club. Robby was going to look into this and invite potential members and report on progress via email.
2. Peter highlighted also the importance of continuous partnerships with local schools, which is to include St. Martin of Porres and Bounds Green School too, and not just (due to their vicinity) Rhodes Avenue and APS, but also stressed on having to improve on the marketing side of the events, as this year we have had some minor setbacks which must not be repeated, but rather improved upon going forward.
  3. Robby thanked FARRG for the continuous support as this has led throughout the years to recognisable and tangible achievements and awards, both at local and national level. Both that have not only put FARRG on the map, but also the park and his business as a whole. He now has plans to expand the café with a complete refurbishment this coming Christmas 2015.
  4. Robby also reported that he has noticed a change in the demographics of the park usage for the better in recent years. Whilst in the past these was predominantly the likes of “mums and small children”, he now reports that there are definitively more teenagers and younger adults hanging around the park. Again this is a good measurement of success.
  5. Sports activities – these have also increased, in fact there were nearly 600 children in the summer camps this year and he has also had to employ more coaches to cater for these.
  6. Lucas highlighted that massive achievement with regards to delivering the new changing rooms. Not only was this on budget, but also received tremendous positive feedback from park users (sports teams etc). His next challenge is to ensure that our “*Friends & supporters*” main marketing database is increased in numbers for the upcoming year. Lucas & Gianluca will be assisted by Sonya and Emma whom have both offered to assist in marketing activities and management of social networks (twitter, facebook etc). It has been decided to provide them with limited access to the mailing list and web interface.
  7. Wombles Group – Another fantastic achievement from our young park users, who are ever so proud to wear their “*FARRG Womble Badge*”. On Easter Monday 2014 , over 23 children teamed up with litter pickers, gloves and a lot of enthusiasm, and filled 53 bags full of litter. 6 months later, 56 bags were filled with litter! Additionally at the second **FARRG Wombles** gathering there was a big bulb plant - these bulbs are now starting to come to life for all to enjoy.
  8. Gianluca – Annual Treasurer Report/Statement to follow in the new year as we have changed the year end period for the closing of the accounts from previous years in order to coincide with the end of the calendar year i.e. 31 December. Main reason for this is that it was not always feasible, nor representative to have figures in the middle of November in time for the AGM. He did report though that there was £2656.90 in the

FARRG Bank account. Lucas also handed Gianluca £120 cash collected in the form of donations on the day of the JazzFest 2014.

9. Tony (LBH) – sadly outlined that there was a £70m cut in the budget for the Council (LBH), meaning on average they had to have 1 in 4 cuts per department and this has also affected his department too. He also reported that he was disappointed that the drainage inspection/work in the children play area didn't go well as planned with continuous flooding problems. On the other hand football in the park is as successful as ever, in fact our park is extremely popular with teams and always booked up. We are also on the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for Green Flag status award, scoring the highest on record from judges.
10. Events – Upcoming events planned, our popular Quiz Night for the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015. Further events dates will be planned and agreed on the next meeting.
11. Date of next meeting: none. Peter to email dates, but this will be held in sometime in March.