

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 20 March 2019

1. Present: 25 members attended and were welcomed by the Chair.
2. Apologies: Ruth Edwards and Colin Houston (Heath Hands)
3. Minutes of last AGM: Accepted with no matters arising.
4. Chair's Report: John Dorken said that the year had been "business as usual." We had generally maintained good relations with the Council and were pleased that Ed Santry had been appointed as Nature Conservation Officer. He was settling into the job with new ideas and speed. There remained a challenge as resources were short but we would get involved in the development of Haringey's Biodiversity Plan and Open Space strategy. We had been pleased that a new lease had been awarded to the Cafe, which was a very precious asset for the Wood. And we were pleased to have been only one of three Haringey parks re-awarded the Green Flag without adverse comment, though we hoped this would not mean that outstanding problems, particularly the paths were not tackled. The new fence and native saplings around the Frog Pond had much improved its appearance and had, so far, not been vandalised. There had been a full programme of events and membership had held up well. In discussion, a vote of thanks to Gemma Harris was agreed in view of all her work to remove litter. It was noted that the small dog pond (originally a settlement pond) had been refurbished. It was agreed we should try to celebrate thirty years since the informal coming together of the Friends and twenty years since its formal constitution. It was agreed we needed to co-operate with neighbouring Green Spaces such as CREOS and Shepherd's Cot: there was potential for creating green corridors to allow wildlife to move around a larger area and there could be co-operation of volunteers for work in the wood. Adrian Henriques wondered whether there was potential for reintroducing small predators such as stoats: Ed Santry thought the area was too small but it was agreed we should bear the possibility in mind.
5. Treasurer's Report: Michael Johns said that income from both subscriptions and donations had increased over the previous year, while expenditure on non project matters was unchanged. We continued to benefit from grants from Haringey and had undertaken a number of improvements and events. Our reserves now stood at over £5,000. Subscription rates had therefore not been changed, except that we had decided to focus concessions on the under 25s. Michael Watson asked what the boundary between what was funded by the Council and what by FQW; the Treasurer explained that there was no hard and fast distinction. If something needed to be done and the Council could not fund it but the Friends could, we would consider spending our funds.
6. Election of Committee: John Dorken, Michael Johns and Janet Shapiro stood down as committee members under the constitution's provisions for rotation. Mike Dallimore proposed and Mike Hancock seconded their re-election onto the Committee which was supported unanimously.
7. Election of Chair: Alison Watson proposed and Gemma Harris seconded John Dorken for re-election as Chair. He was elected nem con.
8. Any other business: None
9. Ed Santry gave an illustrated talk about his role as Conservation Officer at Haringey, the recent re-organisation of the Council's management of opens spaces, the forthcoming reviews of the Biodiversity Plan and Parks and Green Spaces strategy, the development of management of Haringey's Ancient Woodlands in line with the UKWAS standards, and thoughts on how conservation might be encouraged across the borough, including in gardens and allotments.

Michael Johns

21 March 2019