



Minutes for the Friends of Telegraph Hill Park Meeting, 13th December 2011

1. Attendees and apologies for absence

Meeting chaired by Malcolm Bacchus
Minutes taken by Vicky Williams
Chris Thompson (Glendale)
Martin Hyde (LBL)
Oliver Wells
Jacqui Shimidzu
Helen Le Feure
Bill Tautz
Luky Trenchard
Graham Maxwell

Cllr Joan Millbank
Mark Martinski
Jules Hewett
David Hall
Bill Franciscy
Tamsin Bacchus
Lolly Whitney-Low
Sioban Whitney-Low
Peter Foulsham
Sylvestra Le Touzel Teale

Peter Ball
Richard Bailey
Louis Slater
Graham Jameson
Paul Wootton
Anne-Marie Scott
Imogen Slater
Maeve McAnallen
Sophie Beswick

Apologies for absence: Cllr Paul Bell, Sandra Margolies, Paul Milnes, Charlie Viney, Anthea Sheahan

2. Review of Minutes from last meeting

- Martin Hyde had been wrongly listed as being from Glendale – now corrected.
- It was suggested that in future, attendees be individually named in the Minutes, not listed as merely 'residents'. (This has also been done, subject to the deciphering of handwriting!)

3. Skate Park up-date

A show of hands voted in favour of discussing the issue of the Skate Park first rather than following the original agenda.

The Chair explained the reasons why some members of the Committee had felt it necessary to send a private letter regarding the skate park development to the Council.

- Concerns had been raised to members of the Committee by people felt to be competent regarding the structure and stability of the site. There had appeared to be conflicting and incomplete information about the design and stability reports that had been carried out and concerns raised had not been satisfactorily answered.
- Previous experience of cracked paths.

Martin Hyde responded.

- This development had been a new process for the Council, communications had been difficult and lessons had been learnt for the future.
- Size of development and approval of plans confirmed.

The Council had responded to the Committee's concerns. It was agreed that both the Committee's letter and the Council's reply would be posted on the Park website.

There was a general feeling that despite a week's delay, it was good news that work on the skate park had begun. Communications between the various parties had been difficult and perhaps a process should be put in place to prevent such an escalation of events in the future.

4. Maintenance & Repairs

1. Damage to Play Equipment

Due to the recent high winds, a large tree in the children's play area of the lower park had been blown over and had caused severe damage to the swings.

Trees in the park had been surveyed in March and graded as 1 (needing urgent action), 2 (requiring some work) or 3 (with no problems). The tree that had fallen had been graded as a 2. It is to be felled and cleared, the damage to the play equipment is to be assessed and will be repaired.

The Council has no policy about closing parks in high winds, but people should be aware that there is a certain amount of risk in using parks with trees when there are high winds.

2. General Up-date (from Chris Thompson)

- i. The play house had been fixed
- ii. Picnic tables had been repaired
- iii. Tennis nets have been replace
- iv. Drinking fountain pressure has been fixed and fountains turned off for the winter
- v. Burnt plastic liners in the bins were being gradually replaced with metal ones
- vi. Repairs to paths in the lower park had been carried out and that work on the ones in the upper park would be starting soon.

The Chair noted that the pumps in the ponds are now working well and that recent graffiti had been removed very swiftly.

He also pointed out that there was paint flaking off railings and asked whether the council has a 10 year rolling maintenance plan in place which was undertaken when the park was renovated.

5. Park Security

There have been incidents of people with dogs using the lower park at night and also children using an overhanging tree to climb into the park at night. The meeting was also told that these are issues for the police and as such should be reported.

Chris Thompson is liaising with the Safer Neighbourhood team with regard to park security.

It was suggested that the Park Keeper's hours should be an item to be discussed at the next meeting as these can be flexible and have implications with regard to the locking of the park in the evenings.

6. Harvest Festival in the Park

Thanks was given to Sheridan for organising the event.

Other events happening in the park in the future:

- Jacqui updated the meeting about Film in the Park – as part of the New Cross and Deptford Film Festival in April, proposing to show 'Up' in the top park. Will be powered by cycle power!
- As part of the Telegraph Hill Festival there will be lots of events taking place in the park including the Skatepark Opening taking place the last weekend of the festival.

7. Proposal for free exercise class in the Park for OAPs

The meeting was told that this was to be a one-off themed day organised by a personal trainer.

8. Any Other Business

1. Equiano Interpretation Board

Graham Jameson asked about progress on this issue but as Sandra Margolies was unable to attend the meeting, it was decided not to discuss this item at this meeting. Sylvestra agreed to try to get people together and formulate something for the next meeting.

2. Open Spaces Strategy

Lewisham is carrying out a survey of park users to find out who uses open spaces (parks, nature reserves, etc) and for what. Copies are to be sent out in January. It was suggested that the Friends could organise an extra meeting, perhaps in February, to discuss these issues and feed the results back to Martin. A Saturday morning or afternoon was felt to be a convenient time for most people for this meeting.

3. Stay & Play

Joan Millbank explained that this service is currently delivered by Lewisham Children's Centres but from May/June the Council would no longer be running Children's Centres and these services would be put out to tender. It was suggested that the Friends should find out what is happening to the service and what implication the change in management would have for the facility in this park. It was confirmed that the Council will keep ownership of the building.

4. Relationship between Glendale & the Council

Peter asked that the relationship between Glendale and the Council should be explained at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th March 2012