

**FRIENDS OF MILE END PARK**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 5 pm**  
**At the Ecology Pavilion at our Park Life Fair**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Joan Griffiths, Jane Preston, John White, Allan Cousens, Roshan Ansari

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Dan Batchelor
- 2. Minutes of last AGM:** agreed unanimously
- 3. Election of Officers:** all re-elected unanimously  
Chair: Awaiting confirmation  
Secretary: Joan Griffiths  
Treasurer: Jane Preston  
Website & Membership Secretary; Recycling: John White  
Biodiversity: Allan Cousens  
Committee Members: Roshan Ansari, Dan Batchelor  
**We urgently need to co-opt more committee members and a new Chair and Secretary.**
- 4. Renewal Confirmation of Constitution:** agreed that John White would undertake this and then bring it to the committee for ratification.
- 5. Chair's report on Activities and Developments:** see item 7.
- 6. Treasurer's report on Finance and New Bank Signatories:**  
Jane Preston reported on the Co-operative Bank's delay in providing a new pin number, resulting in delay of payments etc. New signatories had been confirmed. Accounts for 2011-2012 were approved: closing net assets: £2887.96  
John White asked that they be dated (1 May? 31 Dec? another?)  
Roshan Ansari queried the handover of 'Active at 60' grant portion unspent before deadline to Mile End Park manager to administer on our behalf. This was explained by Joan Griffiths, with apologies and a warning against drawing down grants we then have difficulty in spending!  
Retiring Treasurer Dan Batchelor was thanked for many years' very much appreciated service. It is hoped that he will remain on the Committee as its longest serving member with valuable experience and insights.
- 7. Secretary's Report on Projects and Developments**  
**Departure of TH Parks Director Michael Rowan:** When he told us, after the event, of his resignation due to the unsatisfactory restructuring of his post, FOMEPE wrote to the King George's Field Board in advance of their next meeting, expressing our profound regret and our appreciation of his outstanding, exceptionally successful period of service. John White represented FOMEPE at the Board meeting (they are also the LBTH cabinet).] Extracts from our letter to the Trustees were read out at Michael's Leaving Party, when he was presented with our gifts of a subscription for free entry to London Parks and Gardens and also the Photobook of 'Photos from the Footpath'.

### **Active at 60 Walking in the Park 2011/12:**

After many walks poorly attended or cancelled due to cold, windy weather, Graham Barker had been paid to lead three successful walks in 2012. The new bench was still being purchased by the Park manager, who had also agreed to have donations of new benches containing memorial plaques dedicated to deceased loved ones.

**Photos from the Footpath 2012:** FOMEPE drew down the grant for Graham Barker to run this very successful project attended by about 15 seniors (including Joan Griffiths).

**Park Life Annual Fair & Dog Show 2013:** quite well attended and enjoyed, considering the forecast and actual rain, cold and wind. Postponement from July was due to LBTH withdrawing their Dog Show, successful in previous years. Still unable to put on a Dog Show in September, LBTH only provided two Animal Wardens to insert free micro-chips. We were very grateful to the local PDSA for putting on their first ever Dog Show at such short notice and carrying it through in spite of beginners' snags. Appreciation was expressed of Teanne Andrews' hard work and good ideas as administrator.

Joan Griffiths said that this had been her final Fair & Dog Show and encouraged other members to continue in future. She was prepared to carry on fund-raising for it.

### **8. Any Other business.**

**All agreed that we must seek a better time and place for the AGM,** as the hoped-for increase in attendance after the Fair had never materialised even in good weather.

John White raised three points:

**a) Litter:** has increased in the Park since Michael Rowan's departure. John is a member of Tower Hamlets Recycling Action Group (THRAG) applying for a grant from Veolia for improvement, including more rubbish bins urgently needed. He has also won free litter-clearing equipment for FOMEPE.

**b) Fencing:** needed for the Dog Agility Area near the Ragged School.

**c) Photographs of Park and its users Exhibition:** John offered to organise this in the Arts Pavilion in co-operation with manager Terry Scaddon and perhaps involving Graham Barker, with an opening cheese & wine type party to attract new members to FOMEPE, including perhaps a meeting on current issues: cost to FOMEPE estimated at £500 max. Treasurer Jane Preston agreed this expenditure.

This offer was enthusiastically welcomed by all.

**Dog Walking:** Jane Preston asked about the legal limit on the number of dogs led by one walker, as eight had been seen! Allan Cousens has now emailed to Committee members the website details on commercial dog walking in royal parks.

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm approx..

*Joan Griffiths, Hon. Sec. FOMEPE  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2013*