

FRIENDS OF BIRKENHEAD PARK  
MINUTES OF MEETING & AGM ON 02-04-2016

**Apologies from:** Esther Lewis, Heather Bradshaw, Lisa Kelly, Peter Berry

1. **Election of Officers:** The following Officers agreed to stand again for the next year.  
**Chairman** - Robert Lee - **Finance Hon Sec** - vacant. Robert agreed to fill this post on temporary basis. **Hon Sec:** Vacant - Georgina agreed to continue to take the minutes for the Friends meetings. A full time Sec is required. **Committee Members:** Ian Lee, Sheila Blair, Pauline Beecham, Graham Arnold, Harvey Cox.  
Voted on and unanimously accepted by members present.

Robert gave an update on developments : World Heritage application work in progress. Lottery Fund bid under way.

A Conservation area sub group had been formed and Graham Arnold is helping to progress this.

2. **Financial Report:** Robert explained that he was carrying out this role on a temporary basis. The Financial summary was discussed and although the Friends finances are still fairly robust this is mainly due to the residual reserves from the Lottery Fund & to sales and other gratuities e.g. £200 was donated by the Transport Festival Organisers. All much needed. There are on going expenses i.e. the South Lodge rent is now £220 a month. So consideration needs to be given to a set amount for the Friends Membership currently at £2 annually. It was proposed that the Annual Subscription be £5 with the option of Members giving above that at their discretion. Members brought to the attention of the meeting that Clubs generally ask for a much higher amount than FBHP have been charging. It was proposed the minimum subscription be raised from £2 to £5. This was voted on and unanimously accepted.

A suggestion that a donation towards expenses be encouraged at future meetings was agreed and will be entirely voluntary. Georgina agreed to continue to take the minutes for the Friends meetings. It leaves a requirement for a full time Secretary still to be found - can you help with either posts?

3. **The Minutes of the January meeting** were accepted with 2 amendments as follows.

(1) Ian's surname - Lee - now spelt correctly and (2) Ian to be a Bank signatory, a 2nd signatory still required. Help required for this post too please ?

**4. Website:**

Fraser gave an update as follows: use of the website:

2016 - Highest - Blog - Jan 296 Feb 381 March 237  
- History - Jan 74 Feb 120 March 131  
- Ed Kemp Gd 51 - Jan Feb 24 March 68

Grand total for 2016 being 11088

Relevant Photos, news, events, etc to be forwarded to Fraser for inclusion on the website .

A "Just giving" option was discussed and Fraser agreed to set this up. Ian told of the Kemp pond video he made and sent to Fraser for inclusion and it had secured several 'hits'. Aspects like this could be developed. There is a link to New York Central Park.

Paul Davies being instrumental is getting this going.

Thanks was extended to Fraser for managing the website.

**5. Edward Kemp Report:**

Sheila Blair - Sheila said she was proud to relate that The Edward Kemp Garden now has a beautiful Tarmac entrance and Car Park made possible by a donation of £8000 from Dong Energy through Burbo Bank (the wind farm people). Other funding has been granted from various bids. A Project Co-Ordinator for the Edward Kemp Garden has been

appointed namely Emma Blake who was introduced. Emma will also organise the History and Heritage Fair, events and recruitment. The work on the Mediterranean garden continues Maureen is leading on this. Vines, a lemon tree and other plants are ready to go in.

#### **6. The Big History Show & forthcoming events:**

Emma Blake's report:

The Events volunteers have been working hard:

February was the successful Volunteer Recruitment Day in partnership with the Park.

March was the Wirral History and Heritage Day at Birkenhead Town Hall and well attended with 50 new members signed up.

April is the Big History Show at St George's Hall. This is a two day event Saturday and Sunday initiative and 10th April. Volunteers were invited to sign up for a slot on one or other of the days.

May there is the Victorian Society, Birmingham, coming for a Park visit.

June - Discovering Birkenhead a 4 morning event at Birkenhead Park School with whom the Friends have a new working partnership.

July - our next quarterly meeting with a possible speaker on Planes over the Park and possibly link it to the Spitfire crash. 75th anniversary of Birkenhead Blitz.

August - Fruit and Flower Festival

September - Festival of Transport

**Please record thanks for volunteer support for events.**

Robert extended thanks on behalf of The Friends to all for so much hard work and initiative.

#### **7. Park Manager's Report:**

Chris Osborne gave apologies for Paul Davies and submitted Paul's report via Power point. The following is but a summary of Paul's report.

Current Status: Visitor Services & Heritage Gardening Teams are now at full strength including 2 apprentices. Plans are underway to employ 2 Level 3 Forest School Teachers made possible with funds from the Public Health.

Concerns: There was another arson attempt on the Swiss Bridge on Feb 5th by 2 youths m&f both were apprehended and no damage caused. This demonstrates the importance of the high technology & modern security system now in place. This is to enhance the security of staff and the public as well as protecting the Park.

The Lakes the fish population has been decimated by cormorants. Plans are under way to deal with this problem.

Partnership update: Guests from Finland visited Birkenhead Park on 21-02-16. They gave assistance with the Landscape Alive Project being developed.

World Heritage Status: Positive meetings continue with new and interested partners offering to help. The endorsement of Doug Blonksy CEO & President of New York Central Parks Conservatory is hugely important as is the assistance of Dr Hilary Taylor.

***Do look up the full Report on the FBHP website it is informative and a valuable insight into the main developments at the Park.***

[www.friendsofbirkenheadpark.org.uk/news.html](http://www.friendsofbirkenheadpark.org.uk/news.html)

#### **8. 'Edward Kemp at Birkenhead Park' - Talk by Elizabeth Davey**

Using an illustrated talk Elizabeth gave us a valuable insight into the many projects undertaken by Edward Kemp throughout a long and fruitful career. His impact on The Park is well known so it was of special interest to learn of his other work in places further afield. Elizabeth was thanked for an interesting and informative presentation.

**Reminder: The next FBHP Meeting is on Saturday July 2nd at 2pm at The Visitor Centre.**

**Georgina Keena**