**Minutes of the Friends of Charlton Park Annual General Meeting**

held on March 7th 2018 in Charlton House

1.Present: Trisha Anderson (Secretary), Megan Cable, Darryl Chamberlain, Paul Chapman, Andrew Donkin, Matt Drewry, Robert Goring, Patrick Goss, Susie Goss, Hazel Greig-Midlane, John Greig-Midlane, Stuart Hopper, Annie Keys (Chair) Allan MacCarthy, Ashleigh Marsh, Tara Masand, James Morrison, Gary Parker, Kay Pemberton, Elizabeth Rutherford-Johnson, Edward Schofield, Jackie Smith, Gulle Stubbs, John Tidy, Clare Welburn, Judy Wolfram.

2. Apologies for Absence: Gary Dillon

Annie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on November 23rd 2017, which had been circulated, were agreed as a correct record. Membership Forms were circulated.

4. Chair’s and Secretary’s Reports

Annie and Trisha spoke to their written report which had also been circulated. This included reporting on events organised and actions taken by them which included re-drafting the model constitution so as to meet the Friends’ requirements, planning the AGM and organising the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in the park. They reported their work concerning Parksfest, resulting in an invitation to participate and with other management committee members on matters including membership recruiting.

Their reports were received with thanks by the meeting.

5. Election of Chair, Secretary and other committee – Robert Goring explained the need to elect a chair, secretary, treasurer and two others onto a management committee. Agreed, the following were elected by the meeting: Chair – Annie Keys; Secretary – Trisha Anderson; Treasurer – Elizabeth Rutherford-Johnson; Ashleigh Marsh and Andrew Donkin committee members.

6. Bank Account – It was agreed to set up a bank account. The Treasurer was authorised to act for the Friends in doing so.

7. Presentation on Charlton Park brainstorming session

Andrew Donkin gave this presentation. He said it was the most used park in the borough but had, until now, no user group. He highlighted the diversity of the users and the range of their interests. The brainstorming session, held on 13th December 2017 and which had been open to all and advertised in advance, identified park users’ needs, wants and desires in four areas: biodiversity; sports facilities; leisure and community.

A question about the Green Chain Walk was asked by Hazel. This concerned it misdirecting walkers, what could be done? A meeting with Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust was requested, with Hazel invited too, to discuss an action plan.

Gulle said that the cricket notice boards were not currently being used and suggested that these be used to notify park events to users. Annie said she would raise this with Parks’ staff.

Judy asked about the Parksfest, the Chair invited Robert to explain. He told us that it was a council funded community/festival event. Money comes from the council for the Parksfest, which are across the borough, to the Parks’ Forum which administers accordingly using a bidding system. Chair explained that due to the tight timeframe, the Parksfest was to be in June, the committee had approached Global Fusion, experienced in these events and with liaison with the Council, to help make the application.

Hazel commented in an outdated sign on the changing block and Robert said he would get that dealt with.

Darryl said that he had contacts with a Park Run group and could assist if one was wanted in Charlton.

8. Guest Speaker – Cllr Jackie Smith, RBG cabinet member for community safety and environment, was welcomed and addressed the meeting. Jackie spoke about the Community Growth Fund and making applications. She welcomed the establishment of this group.

She was asked about the successes of other groups and how the Charlton Park Friends might replicate these. Jackie said pro-active groups with clear aims who worked with the Council were the successful ones.

9. Other business

The Secretary was asked to organise with the Head of Parks, Paul Martin, a regular walkabout with Charlton Park’s staff and, at least, the Chair and Secretary of the Friends.

With no further business the meeting finished at 9.30pm.