

Minutes of the Friends of Kilburn Library Garden

Date: 13 September 2008

Present: Jay Venn, Deborah Allen, Carol French, Lucy Belt,
Denise Delalande, Rosemary Palmer, Bruce Fursman,
Florence Afolabi, Danielle Osieck, Rohan Osieck, Sunshine Flint,
Linda George, Wendy Litchfield (minutes)

The new members were introduced at the meeting. (Bruce, Rosemary and Florence)

Minutes of Last Meeting

- 1) Bank Account – We now have a bank account. We have a cheque book but are awaiting the debit card but this is being processed. All transactions should go through Deborah. The purchase of small items can go ahead but, for larger items, check with Deborah to see if we can cover the spending because we have already spent some of the funds.
- 2) Tree Surgery – As we are not in a conservation area, we can go ahead and remove unwanted trees. Jay is still trying to contact Richard from Queens Park who is willing to help us.
- 3) Health & Safety Issues – People working in the garden should sign in and out the library visitors' book. Nobody who has not completed basic Health & Safety training should be working solo in the garden. People should know that they are working at their own risk.
- 4) Dig Days – Lucy has been coming on Thursday nights. The digging has revealed buried rubbish including an old fire grate which Jay has found useful.
- 5) Benches – The Corporation of London has a surplus of memorial benches which are available.
- 6) Garden Tap – The tap is now installed but was put in the wrong place. Mike is coming back to rectify this – it should be on the wall and not on the fence. The main supply can only be turned on up in the staff kitchen and there is the option of draining the water if required. All of the system is lagged. A rain butt is needed which would go under a down pipe. Jay mentioned that the library guttering had a leak at the back – Linda to take action on this.
- 7) Kilburn Festival – A correction to amount collected. This should be **£124** and not £24 as stated on previous minutes.

Design Ideas

Jay produced the plan for the garden. As we need disabled access, the paths need to be hard standing. Raised beds are required because of the condition of the soil and, because of the costs involved, the beds will have straight edges. The fence from the children's area will be taken down but we will keep a trellis with a gate. We should start to build up the beds in the corner which has been cleared of rubbish and gradually move over other parts of the garden when they have become cleared.

Felled trees from the garden can be used for habitat piles for bugs.

There is to be spongy tarmac for the children's area and a reading tree.

As paving is quite expensive, The Park Manager at Queens Park may be able to help or Groundwork may do the paths.

When the trees have been felled we should hire a chipper and could recycle the chip bark in the beds.

Bruce said that there is a smaller type of gravel which is used for disabled access. At present, Queens Park Community School have it and Bruce will find out details from the school.

Jay is to start a list detailing all the materials we need, e.g. timber framing for the beds, but has not been able to complete this yet. Avril has been trawling the internet for ideas.

Wiggly Wigglers do ready-made units for raised beds (some made from recycled plastics and polythenes). These may be more expensive but quicker in the beginning as we need to get planting as quickly as possible.

Railway sleepers are vast so are too thick for edges but ideal for steps.

Bed liners could be made from heavy duty woven plastic bags (from building sites). Deborah said that she has contacts with construction firms.

Feedbacks

Concerning funding, Jay has various bits of cash which she will hand to Deborah and also has some invoices. We have spent about £2000 of the grant already so we should have about £3000 left. The shed will cost about £300.

Linda is meeting Groundwork on Tuesday 16th September at about 3 pm for an initial meeting. The bid is for £10,000 to £25,000 and Groundwork will work with us and supply what we require according to our project plan. They can get the materials (timber, disabled grit/gravel etc) and provide the labour to lay it, if the bid is successful. Ours is a new project and no other library has the same project.

AOB

At the last meeting, Ed said the Kilburn Community Choir could be asked to sing in order to help raise money for us. Denise said that she has contacts with the Queens Park Band.

Espalier fruit trees have been donated (to be planted 13th September).

Compost will be required for the garden. Carol knows a supplier who has compost in 30/40 kilogram heavy duty sacks and could deliver. It is less expensive to buy in bulk.

Kilburn Library will have a stall at Queens Park Day (Sunday 14th September from 12 pm to 5pm) and will create a space for the Garden Project. We will take Garden Project publicity leaflets and display boards. Sunshine said she could help from 12pm, Lucy from 1pm, Denise from 2pm and Danielle from 3pm in order that the stall is covered most of the afternoon.

Bruce asked if there was to be a theme to the Garden. There is not an overall theme at present and this is open to suggestions. However, we do have a limited amount of space. We could have apple trees and pear trees and other easy maintenance fruit (e.g. raspberries and strawberry beds)

Next meeting is Saturday 18th October at the earlier time of 11.30 am followed by digging.