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Minutes of a meeting held on 15 January 2011
of the Friends of Kilburn Library Garden

Present: Jay Venn, Carol Cooper (Minutes) Carol French,
Avril Macintosh, Carl, Christine Sharp

Apologies for Absence: Jules & Deb Allen

1. Official Opening

We discussed possible dates and timings for our official opening in May 2011. Following discussion, and noting the various May Bank holidays, royal wedding and Cup Final (14/05) it was decided we would like to have the opening on Saturday, 21 May. It was thought that we might run 2 events and continue on into the evening. Carol French suggested we might ask a 'personality' to do the official opening. Carl pointed out that there would be changes to the staffing structures from June 2011 and he was keen that the opening be in May. Decision day on the 6 library closures in Brent is 12 April (though Kilburn is not on the list). We should invite the local Councillors. Cllr James Denslow had visited previously.

Jay spoke about the possibility of more than one event to which we invite members of the public. She referred to the earlier suggestion by Carol St John that we have an event where we invite the local business people in for drinks. This would then be a good opportunity to show them the garden and tell people what we are still hoping to achieve. Maybe use the opportunity to do a pitch for funding.

The opening itself needs to start in the day time, probably 2pm as in previous years; in order to encourage families and children to attend. With an option to continue into the evening until 8pm with a break from 5-6 /6.30 pm. Carl confirmed that it would be possible for the library to remain open on a Saturday evening to accommodate this. Before we agree to the opening on 21 May we just need to check with Salusbury School that there is no clash with events they may be running.

A plant sale would take place during the day. Carol French said she would like to try something new and have a Question and Answer session. She will not be involved in the sale of plants, though she may well provide some for sale by others.

2. Funding

Avril announced that we had received a grant of £2,000 from the Neighbourhood Working Fund. Carol French said she had been asked last summer for a copy of our accounts. At present we do not have a proper set of accounts to show potential funders.

3. Charitable Status

Both the Chair, Jay Venn and Carol French expressed some concern over our application for charitable status. However, they wished to put on record their thanks for all the work and effort put in by Deb towards making an application for charitable status. Christine Sharp said she would be very happy to assist Deb in any way she could with the outstanding paperwork. Deb was away for 2 weeks but it was agreed that Jay Venn would write to her expressing our gratitude for all she has done but also expressing concern over the outstanding paperwork.

4. Preparations required for opening

In order to get ready for the official opening of the garden it was essential that we had some paving down in part of the garden. Jay agreed to put some costings together. She had previously spoken to Joyce, a disabled user who indicated that it was not necessary to have continuous paving for wheel chair users. Stepping stones would be acceptable. Once Jay has drawn up plans she will forward them to Avril who has agreed to approach a couple of potential suppliers. She had in mind to approach the aggregate company involved in the winning Gold entry at the Chelsea Flower show in 2010.

We have a sum of approximately £500 in the bank. One way of raising money for the paving was a suggestion to 'adopt a stone slab'!

The trellising was something else which needed to be sorted before the opening. Benches were an item on our wish list. Previously Richard Gentry from the Corporation of London had offered us a bench but we had heard nothing further from him. Avril agreed to chase this up at the Parks Open day.

Nothing further had happened with regard to the Wendy House. Avril stated she was still not in agreement with it in the garden. It was decided that it should be sanded down. First it was necessary to check with Chris Coleman that all the parts of the Wendy House were in situ. Graeme Day had been in touch with Carl about painting certain areas in the library. It wasn't thought appropriate to paint the Wendy House, but wood stain might be a possibility after sanding.

If we go ahead with both a day time and evening event in May it was thought we would want lights in the garden. Avril has kindly offered some fairy lights.

5. Wish List

Items on our wish list included the following:

Paving (discussed above). Benches.

Fixing the mirror on the far wall behind the iron gate. Cost approx £90. Jay stated that the mirror had to be mounted on something solid such as marine ply and treated with pva.

6. Schedule of Dig Days

It was agreed that we should hold dig days every fortnight commencing at 11.30am. The next dig days are Saturday 29 January when Carol French will supervise weeding, 12 February and 26 February. Volunteers will be asked to indicate if / when they can attend. When there is a dig day and meeting we would start at noon.

7. Items for next meeting

Event with businesses, school liaison, update on finances and charitable status.

Ask Carol St John

8. Starbucks

Carl said he was happy to speak to Starbucks about obtaining coffee granules.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 12 February 2011 commencing at 12 noon.