

Minutes of the Friends of Kilburn Library Garden

Date: 21 February 2009

Present: Jay Venn, Carol French, Deborah Allen, Denise Delalande Avril McIntosh, Nacer Khodja, Sunshine Flint, Carol St John, Sam Carter, Linda George, Wendy Litchfield (minutes)

New member, Sam Carter, was introduced to the meeting.

Matters Arising/Feedbacks

Garden Help – Richard Gentry, manager of Queens Park Park has promised various ways to help the project. He had organised some of his staff to take away the rubbish bags but although a date was arranged for Wednesday 18 February when Janet came in specifically to open the building, they did not show. We will try to arrange a further date and although it may mean some disruption, a day when the Library is open would be preferable. (Not on a Thursday morning when there is an Under 5's Session)

Bank Account – We still have about £2,600 in the budget.

Tree Surgery – Jay has received quotes for the tree surgery work. Jay's contact Richard charges £350 per day plus it would cost about £80 for his labourer. She has found in a hire services website a small petrol chipper, which could be hired, for £58.13. It could be hired on a Friday night to get the work done on the Saturday. The total estimate for the job would be about £710. Although Treecare had quoted £300 to have some work done, it was only minor work. After April, there may be some library funds available for the project. Karl Hemsley will be the new library manager who is willing to support the project. We should remind him to claim the £300 back from Brent for the project.

Shed – The shed has been finished. It has a much flatter roof than expected and rain may trickle in. This will be checked. There is no lock yet. When fitted, the tools can be locked in it. At present, the garden chairs are being kept in the shed but when used for tools, a storage container may be needed for the chairs.

Raised Beds – The second raised bed has been finished. Plants were put into it after the meeting.

Funding – The application for 'Awards for All' is now ready to be sent off. It needs the bank account details to be put on the form. If we get the grant for £10,000, we can get Groundwork in to do all the heavy work. Although it is a good application, we have to wait for the result. (Avril mentioned that it was not herself who telephoned the bank, as stated on the last minutes.)

Memorial benches are available for Queens Park

There is the possibility of money from Neighbourhood Working. Carol St John said that she does not yet know the date of the next meeting but that the garden project has been mentioned favourably. If someone can go to their next meeting, it might help to obtain funding.

Website – Andy has updated the website. We should keep feeding items to him.

Health & Safety Training – Carol is to organise some training for new members after today's meeting. This is not voluntary as Brent stipulates that all volunteers working in the garden have to have training – for legal purposes.

Tues 28th
April
Q.P. Community
School

Carol has also offered to do a Skills Workshop- the date arranged Saturday 25 April 2009 from 2pm to 4pm. As it is free, it might attract people who may wish to join the project. Carol has offered to make cakes and biscuits for the event but other volunteers are needed. The library might do teas, drinks etc. If the weather is fine, it will be held outside but if raining, Carol can do tours of the garden under umbrellas. Flyers for the event need to be sent to other libraries, especially Kensal Rise Library. The local shops might put an A5 size flyer in their windows. Gardening Books – Linda has managed to get these books so we should keep taking them out.

A.O.B.

The project is now at the stage where the garden needs compost and soil improvers. Carol has managed to obtain free coffee grounds from Starbucks, which she has been spreading on the garden. As our soil is clay, the coffee grounds change the PH so that it is more acidic which makes the plants flourish more. Tealeaves could also be used. Volunteers are required to collect the grounds from Starbucks at about 5.30/6.00 p.m. but not on a Wednesday or Friday. Nacer was one volunteer. Avril said that she has a shopping trolley, which she will donate, to the library for this purpose.

It was agreed at the meeting that Carol should send a thank you letter to Starbucks.

Jay said that we need to get compost as well. At present only small quantities are required and Jay can get 3 x 60 litre bags for £10 from Homebase. For larger amounts, Avril has found a company with cheaper prices than Carol's company. Jay said that we need to write down the various prices and send to her so that we can compare details. If it is a bulk order, the company will deliver the bags into the garden.

Carol said that we need to be careful when buying manure and to make sure that it is amino-pyralids certified free. If we are not sure about the manure, we can get round this by storing it for 3-6 months and then it will be deactivated.

Jay has received e-mail about the gutters at the back of the library. Linda said that this work been completed.

The owners of the house, backing onto the library, have made part of the back wall of the garden higher. Linda is to contact the Planning Department about this and register a complaint. The issues are loss of natural light and lack of consultation.

We need more waste bags and we need trellises to replace the fence.

Avril said that she has been offered a banana tree for the garden, which we decided to accept.

Next meeting is Saturday 21 March 2009 at 11.30 a.m.

As the weather is improving, we might start digging sessions again.

Business help.

*Vick Musby writes leaflets for Councillors.
Fundraising - sponsor a 'tile' or something.
Horse. Trellis for fence*