



Minutes of the meeting held
Ladies Bowls Pavilion, Preston Park

Tues. 13th September 2011

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The meeting was opened by Tony Benton, chairperson.
Apologies were received from Tim Lunnon and John Padmore

2. Chair's Report

Please see the attached

3. Treasurer's Report

Clive presented the accounts, going from an obvious starting balance of nil, to the current balance of over £839. We were grateful for the Hedgecock grant of £950.

4. Secretary's Report

I reported that the database is growing continually, with around 130 members and new people joining the Friends every week, especially via the website. We are grateful to the Council for the two notice-boards by each cafe in the park and to Clive for the popular website. We publish regular Newsletters and invite feedback through meetings / the website.

5 Nominations for Committee and task groups

Tony proposed that the current members of the Committee be re-elected with the addition of Joe McNulty in the new role of Fundraiser (seconded by Sue) and David Williams to head up a new task group on the Arts, on an ad hoc basis (seconded by Sue). Tim has had to stand down due to new work commitments but remains actively interested.

6 Election and Results

Garry (Park ranger) asked if anyone wished to stand against or alongside the proposed slate – no- and the slate went through on a unanimous show of hands.

7 Autumn lantern walks event Saturday 29th October 7pm

Sue presented the planned Autumn lantern event – (originally planned for Halloween night of 31st October but since amended to) Saturday 29th October. Meet at the Ladies' Bowling Pavilion, bring home-made lanterns and optional fancy dress. There will be a prize for the best lantern and best fancy dress. More details via the website and Preston Pages/ Fiveways Directory.

8 Parking Consultation

Tony handed over to the two representatives from Brighton and Hove City Council, Fiona Stokes and Charles Field, to lead the discussion on the new parking proposals for the park.

Briefly, there has been an increased no. of cars parking in the park in recent years, and an increase in the no. of vehicles parked long-term. This has been

highlighted by the number of emails etc the Council have received on the issue. The knock-on effect of parking restrictions introduced in Preston Park Ave was acknowledged. The park's interior roads have suffered deterioration. Outline proposals were distributed.

The meeting did not question the rationale for making proposed changes to the parking issues in the park, this appears to be generally supported. It seemed to be generally held that the inner roads are there for the use of park users (esp blue badge holders or those requiring heavy equipment, etc) and not for long term use. The main points discussed were around the proposed charges, which would pay the cost of enforcing the restrictions.

Strong views were exchanged, inevitably.

Some welcomed the proposals as a balanced and well conceived set of proposals and felt the charges to be (very) reasonable. People questioned the need to visit the park by car, and others suggested Park and Ride be extended.

Questions were raised re

- The need for specific wardens for the park (use Preston Park Ave wardens?)
- The rationale for weekend charging?
- introduce a "charged lunchtime slot" system, to avoid long term parking
- why a weekday survey and no weekend survey had been done?
- There was widespread agreement that the restrictions in Preston Park Avenue be looked at again, and many complaints about the current situation there.

For details of the proposals and to complete the consultation document (please do so BEFORE 30th September 2011), use the link via the Friends website, or go to the Council website. <http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal/bhcc/env/parkingprestonpark/prestonparkparking>. (I have just checked that this link works – it DOES! cm)

9 AOB

i) The future use of the Ladies' Bowling pavilion as a resource for the community was discussed and a proposal was circulated. The meeting agreed that the Committee should pursue this and it was hoped the Council would work positively with us. At present Harvest run courses here and have commented on its potential. Garry mentioned that a table tennis group also meet weekly in the Men's Bowling Pavilion.

A query was raised regarding business use, eg by local small businesses. It's probably not viable at present to run it as a commercial enterprise although renting it out in the future MAY be an option?

ii) The original survey undertaken by the Friends last year threw up film screenings in the park as a popular option. Sue has made contact with companies who might be able to work with us on this.

iii) We invited ideas for more events and thanked everyone for their contributions tonight!