

**Friends of Hillside Gardens**

**MEETING**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 21**

**Present**

Tom Stanbury - Chair

Nigel Duckers – Minutes Secretary

Andreas Kappes

Martin Goffe

Kyle Moreland

Cllr Liz Atkins

Martin Wright

Stephanie Charalambous

Evan Lervill

Dino Skeete

Amy Roe

Delphine Evon

**Apologies**

Tony Emerson

Rosena Skeete

Cllr Rezina Chowdury

Ben Hyde

Cllr Iain Simpson

1	<p><b>Sports Day</b></p> <p>Tom reported on Sports Day, which everyone felt was a big success. He particularly commented on the fact that refreshments were available to children and parents in the Children's Centre at 11.00. Basketball and cricket had been held. Tom felt that rounders was too unfamiliar to the children for a final event. Nigel commented that more money could be raised if we had someone dedicated to 'rattling the bucket'. Nevertheless over £100 was raised for the food bank. Evan and Stephanie passed on warm comments they had received from community members.</p>
2	<p><b>Sports Surfaces and Playground</b></p> <p>A timeline has now been received and a specification for the sports surfaces. This indicates tendering before the end of the year and works starting in the New Year. This is a slippage from previous plans and concerns were raised that the new schedule be stuck to. It was agreed that Tom will clarify the timeline on the playground and that we will ask if funding is sufficient for lights as well as surfaces. The refurbishment of the toilet block and the provision of bike racks are in the spec. Liz is going to check with Iain Ross that the necessary funds for the sports surfaces and playground are still in place.</p>
3	<p><b>Appointments and AGM</b></p> <p>Ben Hyde has offered to be Treasurer and will put himself forward at the AGM. It was suggested that he take Nigel's place for banking details. Rosena wants to stand down as Secretary and Evan will put himself forward. Grateful thanks were expressed to all.</p>
4	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p>Martin Goffe reported. The allotment group is meeting on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>. A handbook is being put together for members. In general, there are more of them and there is more admin. Martin wants to stand down. When members don't apply themselves sufficiently to plots they are encouraged to give them up. This would enable new members to join, or existing members to take on new (larger) plots.</p>

5	<b>Tennis</b> <p>Dino Skeete reported. There were at least 20 new tots at sports day. Some adults have joined the tennis group for the physically inactive. New courses have begun (now what classes cancelled due to the pandemic have been caught up with). Dino expressed dissatisfaction with the court surfaces. Improving players are lost to Hillside tennis because they move elsewhere. There is a new booking system being run by the LTA. This charges £5.40/hour, which Dino feels disadvantages players who are less able to pay. In Southwark tennis is free. Dino expressed frustration that the 'rich' LTA was not more progressive in its policies. Unfortunately, the club is no longer registered with the LTA due to its policies. There was general support for attempting to maintain wide access to the sports facilities in the park, including tennis. It was agreed that we will press for the provision of floodlights on the tennis courts if funds allow.</p>
6	<b>AOB</b> <p>We would like to use the Children's Centre on other occasion to offer refreshments in the park. A Halloween activity for children is being planned for 31<sup>st</sup> October. We would like the Children's Centre to be available then.</p>
7	<b>AGM</b> <p>15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30, location TBA</p>