

Trustees/Committee Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Saturday 28 March 2020

**Present:**

Dave Morris (Chair)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN), and Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Sarah Royal (CEO)	Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF)
Martin Willis (Treasurer & Vice Chair)	Nottingham Open Spaces Forum (NOSF)
Michelle Furtado (Network Coordinator)	Green Tides (Adur & Green Spaces Worthing Partnership)
Simon Curry	Medway Urban Green Forum
Nigel Sharp (Secretary)	North West Parks Friends Forum (NWPFF)

Apologies:

Tim Wright	Sunderland Green Open Spaces Forum
Suzanne	Brent Parks Forum
Roland Bruce	Bristol Parks Forum
Paul Todd	Keep Britain Tidy

Minutes of previous meeting (23.11.19) & Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed.

It was agreed to defer discussion reviewing the Strategic Business Plan to the next meeting owing to other agenda priorities.

Matters Arising

Public Liability Insurance – need to risk assess to determine requirements. MW to check charity guidance, review options and advise further.

MW

DM had circulated model NFPGS policies (data protection, health and safety, financial management etc) which have been agreed.

DM to liaise with MF to improve internal communications and coordination of updates and information.

DM / MF

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) – to be progressed with Social Farms & Gardens. DM to discuss with Chris Blyth.

DM

Awards for All support for promotional book – SR to support DM to progress.

DM / SR

Confirmed MW elected as a Trustee - the Charity Commission has been advised.

Organisational Matters

MF – Parks and People: Stronger Together separate regional conferences reports and an overall 'Aggregate' report are being finalized by DM and MF, due to be published on the website soon, along with feedback from the community empowerment survey.

<p>Michelle consultancy work paid by PAG ends 31.3.2020. She agreed to carry on unpaid until further grants become available if possible. Additional Parks Action Group funds to support NFPGS networking have not been allocated for 2020/21 as PAG activity largely suspended since the beginning of last winter.. .</p>	
<p>Financial Sustainability</p>	
<p>Final details to be confirmed – current funds approx. £10K.</p> <p>An NFPGS outline initial strategic funding rationale in preparation for a bid to the National Lottery Partnerships Fund (and/or other bodies) has been prepared identifying funding requirements of approx. £2.2m over 5 years. The proposal would seek to support the Friends group movement, peer learning, and the focus for partnership work within the sector based on existing MoU links. This level of resources would enable NFPGS to coordinate, build and sustain the national network, becoming a more active focus for sharing of good practice (including the parkscommunity website), and support green spaces and communities. Proposals are to be shared with Nesta and Shared Assets for comment and support.</p> <p>NS noted that approval for this scale of funding may be unusual since NFPGS has a relatively limited financial record in large budget terms and is a new charity, adding that a phased or pilot project approach may ultimately be pragmatic and likely to secure funds. However all also agreed that an adequate level of support is crucial if the movement is to be supported and developed at this historic period as all in the sector seem to recognize.</p> <p>It was agreed to set up a funding working group to review funding options. To be progressed with a separate financial meeting for trustees (zoom).</p> <p>DM confirmed continued good relationship and support with KBT.</p> <p>MW agreed to progress charitable giving / website donation button options.</p>	<p>Trustees</p> <p>MW</p>
<p>NFPGS Profile and Communications</p>	
<p>Websites</p> <p>Attention has focused on progressing the Parks Community UK website https://parkscommunity.org.uk alongside the Parks Charter and NFPGS home site. Noted that the latter needs attention to repair the membership sign up link, and other improvements.</p> <p>Agreed that with CIO status for NFPGS there is a need to review details on the NFPGS website such and local contacts. MF has reviewed membership and linked to the circulation list – NS agreed to support to review and refine details.</p> <p>Social Media / e-mail</p> <p>MF update: 1600 NFPGS twitter followers; 1450 on the NFPGS email database. parkscommunity also has a steadily growing twitter following.</p> <p>MF has managed and integrated contact lists, included regional/ forum separation and this has supported regular bulletins, newsletters.</p> <p>Parks Community UK</p> <p>DM updated – based on Rethinking Parks, a Lottery funded Friends of Lordship Rec. community empowerment project. Project complimented by the regional conferences as community engagement events to help develop material including case studies and guidance. Website now includes resources to support individual friends groups. Website and twitter being developed by Gill Moore, Friends of Turn Moss (Tameside, Manchester) who has been hired as a consultant Although initially</p>	<p>MF/ NS</p>

<p>a separate project it is now being transferred to NFPGS control and ultimately it is expected to integrate and combine NFPGS and Parks Community UK media.</p> <p>An online 'Better Friends' development tool for all the UK's Friends Groups has been devised to help each group evaluate its strength and potential each year if they wish, with relevant questions and links to advice and support groups' progression. To go online on the site soon..</p>	
The Movement, Networking and Partnerships	
<p>The recent regional community empowerment events across England (actively supported by a number of national greenspace organisations) have enabled valuable grass roots consultation to inform the needs of parks community groups, the value of partnership working and the importance of public green spaces. This has substantiated the need for NFPGS to be properly resourced.</p> <p>Alongside the PAG-related reporting NFPGS is working with Groundwork to prepare a Community Empowerment advocacy document, informed by the conference programme.</p> <p>The NFPGS questionnaire survey has also enabled those groups unable to attend the regional events to contribute their views on the key networking and advocacy issues (380 Friends Groups took part).</p> <p>Partnerships Continued development of MoU, including existing partners and their initiatives:</p> <p><u>KBT</u> – link to Love Parks Week, Green Flag Award, GB Spring Clean <u>Fields in Trust</u> – reports, 'Watch This Space' green space protection campaign, Have a Field Day events. <u>Groundwork</u> – future proofing parks project with young people, grants dissemination. <u>TCV</u> – support at regional conferences <u>The Gardens Trust</u> – potential input to a parks protection event.</p> <p>Further potential noted to link with other <u>Rethinking Parks</u>, and <u>Future Parks Accelerator</u> projects.</p> <p><u>Health Parks</u> Friends groups encouraged to use survey on line to check their site's 'health' potential – a free app linking to NHS objectives and terminology to help integrate parks with public health bodies and CCGs, providing additional evidence and support for resources.</p> <p><u>Park Manger Area Forums</u> Existing networks in Scotland, London, Midlands. Paul Rabbits (Head of Parks, Watford) aiming to establish an Institute for Parks Management – may link to Landscape Institute, aim to support sector. NFPGS hope to link in.</p>	
National Presence and Campaigning	
<p>Parks Action Group (PAG) Little or no activity since the autumn - except for the Community Empowerment workstream projects led by the NFPGS) - owing to general election, Brexit activity and current Covid-19 situation. A business case for parks was in preparation to support a campaign for increased resources. Potential to link to the HM Gov. 25 Year Environment Plan.</p> <p>Charter for Parks Website has been revived after some technical problems – groups can sign up.</p>	

<p>Parks Protection Conference Perennial agenda item – the need has not gone away – it remains a future item with potential to partner on delivery with FIT, The Gardens Trust, etc.</p> <p>The Parks Alliance DM involved as an advisor – no recent meetings but development has been supported with a 12 month post funded by PAG (now ended).</p>	
<p>Any Other Business</p>	
<p>A need to consider the impact and effect of the current crisis – issues and opportunities, e.g. Medway - links to public health, dementia friendly walks, Valuing Nature Network inc. research 'how valuable is greenspace'. Parkscommunity will produce a digest on this. Also ideas of using art to capture public voice with local issues including major house building threats.</p>	
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	
<p>To be confirmed.</p>	<p>all</p>