

**Trustees (interim) Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Meeting

**4 October 2023****Present:**

Dave Morris (Chair, NFPGS)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) + Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Shelly Quinton-Hulme (Admin Strategy, NFPGS)	Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces
Michelle Furtado (Network Coordinator, NFPGS)	Green Tides (Adur & Worthing Green Space P/ship)
Paul Ely (Research and Policy, NFPGS)	Parks Community UK
Nigel Sharp (Secretary, NFPGS)	NW Parks Friends Forum

**Apologies**

Sarah Royal (CEO, NFPGS)	Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF)
Cliff Munn [Stood down]	Brighton and Hove Forum
Marion Williams [Stood down]	Newcastle Forum

Due to availability the meeting was rearranged as an abridged 'keep in touch' interim meeting to enable a brief update and identify key items for the agenda for a full Trustees meeting early November.

<b>Minutes of previous meeting (12.4.23) and Matters Arising</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</li> <li>Matters arising covered by agenda items.</li> </ul>	
<b>Finances&amp; Fundraising</b>	
<b>Finances</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cliff Munn was due to discuss Treasurer issues before Martin's departure. However this was unable to happen, and CM has now decided to step down (see below).</li> <li>SQ-H agreed to provide cover as interim Treasurer.</li> <li>SQ-H has already become primary Charity Commission contact for admin. reporting, etc. and will submit the CIO accounts once the CC system is receptive again following temporary website maintenance.</li> </ul>	SQ-H
<b>Fundraising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PE reported disappointment that our bid to the National Lottery Community Fund Bringing People Together programme re ethnic minority inclusion issues had proved unsuccessful.</li> <li>Preparations continue to submit our major and crucial bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for NFPGS infrastructure funding. Paul is now leading on this.</li> <li>Agreed to review alternative funding options at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	PE All
<b>Administrative issues and roles</b>	
<b>Website &amp; media</b>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our 2 NFPGS websites urgently need updating since Gill’s post ended. MF has access and hopes to follow up soon.</li> <li>• Our Better Friends audit tool has again been promoted by KBT alongside Green Flag Award materials. Nearly 400 groups have now used the resource and Dave is looking at the new stats in order to update the BF report to circulate to key contacts e.g. EFRA Select Committee inquiry into parks. [details at: <a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7932/urban-green-spaces/">https://committees.parliament.uk/work/7932/urban-green-spaces/</a> ]</li> <li>• No newsletter has been circulated recently. PE agreed to assist MF.</li> </ul> <p><b>NFPGS Trustees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin (Treasurer) stood down end of June and sadly Marion and Cliff have also now decided to do so owing to their many other commitments.</li> <li>• Thanks were recorded to all for their contribution to NFPGS.</li> <li>• DM has contacted SR and all sent best wishes for a return to good health soon.</li> <li>• Noted that a review of governance and future priorities – for Committee roles (especially Treasurer) and Trustee recruitment – should be considerations for the next meeting.</li> <li>• This could include an additional Scotland rep, and maybe reps for other nations and regions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MF</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>MF/PE</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>NFPGS Initiatives, Projects and Issues</b></p>	
<p><b>Research update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have worked closely with University College London for the last 2 years on project briefs formulated by the NFPGS and carried out by students (actively supported by PE and DM). This year Yi Huang undertook a pilot project looking at good practice regarding the relationship between Friends groups and local authorities, focusing on 3 London boroughs (Islington, Barnet, Haringey). PE aims to distil the report to provide a summary for the website.</li> <li>• Previous research student Nyma Haqqani, having completed her impressive research report for us on ethnic minority inclusion in parks and in greenspace community groups, was recently invited to speak at the Haringey Parks Summit on this issue. [Might be useful to get a recording of this]</li> <li>• PE hopes to discuss future priorities at the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b>National campaigning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ‘Nature for Everyone’ campaign by Wildlife and Countryside lobbying on planning policy, involving around 65 organisations, is ongoing – details at: <a href="https://www.wcl.org.uk/nature-for-everyone.asp">https://www.wcl.org.uk/nature-for-everyone.asp</a>.</li> <li>• DM spoke at a national meeting of The Gardens Trust. This followed the NFPGS providing advice and support with TGT’s questionnaire for park friends / community groups and volunteering issues to support participation, develop skills and protection of historic gardens and landscapes. A contribution fee of £500 to us was agreed for this. We are looking forward to reading the planned Report.</li> <li>• A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been agreed by Dave with CPRE.</li> <li>• Additional MoUs are planned with The Wildlife Trust and Friends of the Earth.</li> <li>• SR organised another Future Parks Accelerator meeting bringing together Area Parks Forum reps from FPA towns. We look forward to reading the minutes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <p><b>PE</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>SR</b></p>

<b>AOB</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DM will be addressing (via a virtual NFPGS ppt on Community Empowerment in Greenspace) the World Urban Parks congress in Australia. This item is scheduled for 15.10 local time, 23 October but doesn't seem to also be being broadcast to non attendees. <a href="https://worldurbanparkscongress.com/2023/">https://worldurbanparkscongress.com/2023/</a> The hope is to share experience from the UK and work towards the setting up of a WUP community empowerment working group / network. <a href="https://www.jointinternationalcongress.com/fullprogram">https://www.jointinternationalcongress.com/fullprogram</a> .</li> <li>PE attended the 'Make Space for Girls' event in Leeds 10-11 May and noted the need to raise awareness of such issues at local authority level, with further scope for NFPGS input linked to inclusivity. Details at: <a href="https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk">https://www.makespaceforgirls.co.uk</a> .</li> <li>NS attended 2 sessions of The Home Show (Sutcliffe Play) conference by zoom, to present an introduction to NFPGS, linking with parks managers from local authorities, parish councils, etc. Sutcliffe Play has been invoiced the usual £500 fee – NS to share details with SQ-H to check receipt of payment.</li> <li>MF has a contact with a rep from The Lund Trust, a 'hidden funder' known to be supportive of green spaces and will explore options for support.</li> <li>DM has been contacted re. a research questionnaire linked to migrants and volunteering – another link to review inclusivity issues. Dave has advised them and we will promote to our networks – we will urge all groups try to fill it in once it is sent out. A £500 fee is expected for the NFPGS.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>NS/ SQ-H</b></p> <p><b>MF</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p>
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Tuesday 7th November by zoom.</li> <li>AGM is due by January.</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>