

Trustees Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting



Tuesday 8 September 2026

Present:

Dave Morris (Chair)	London Friends of Green Spaces Network (LFGN) + Haringey Friends of Parks Forum
Michelle Furtado	Network Coordinator / A4A Administrator
Shelly Quinton-Hulme (Treasurer)	Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces
Pat Gross	Wandsworth Forum
Nigel Sharp (Secretary)	NW Parks Friends Forum

Apologies:

Nicola Dempsey	Sheffield Green Spaces Forum
Wendy Blythe	Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations (FeCRA) & Cambridge Green Space Groups
Sarah Royal	Trustee
Paul Ely	Parks Community UK

Minutes of Previous Meeting (18.7.26) and Matters Arising	
Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.	
NS included a calendar of themes to support event planning with the General meeting mins (18.7.26) and agreed to prepare this as a stand alone doc. to include on the Parks Community UK website.	NS
Parks Working Group (PWG)	
- The 'Friends in Green Places' report has been amended to accommodate feedback from MHCLG but still awaiting their approval. - Noted that owing to the changes/ delayed approval NFPGS (DM) has incurred additional costs and DM agreed to raise this as a further issue when chasing up progress towards approval. - Next PWG meeting due on 15.9.26 – Inclusion in Green Spaces as the theme.	DM
NFPGS Working Groups	
Research - No further activity, and unfortunately ND is unwell - however subject to progress there may be a meeting in October. - All sent best wishes to ND.	

Funding - Need to review priorities / opportunities in the context of Awards for All (A4A) project delivery and MHCLG report recommendations. - Current funds approx. £23K (approx. £4K unrestricted). See report in item below. - Next Funding WG meeting: Monday 19 October 7:30pm zoom - expected attendees: SQ-H, PG, MF and NS. Campaigning - Group not formally set up yet but general activity: - o DM input to protection of green spaces consultation, focus on law and status MHCLG survey. DM shared link on the parkforumsuk email. Closes 20.9.26. - o NFPGS supported the Day of Action 18.4.26. DM is also due to attend a national Anti-Austerity Summit hosted by Hackney Council (9.9.26)¹ in order to galvanise pressure on Government to properly fund public services. He will distribute the Parks Charter to all 200+ delegates. His Council have recently signed the Charter. We agreed to support an eve-of-budget national demonstration at Downing Street. <u>Update:</u> The demonstration was also supported by the conference.	SQ-H/ MF PG / NS DM
Treasurer's Update (SQ-H)	
- SQ-H highlighted the need for NFPGS to retain a financial reserve. Although generally this may be 3 month operational costs, following discussion it was agreed more prudent to ensure cover for NFPGS annual costs (notably Better Friends, webcosts, bank charges) or £2K, whichever is greater. - SQ-H agreed to revise annual report accordingly.	All SQ-H
NFPGS Admin/Coordination - Awards for All Project (MF/ DM)	
- Following Nikki Iyayi moving on to other commitments, MF has taken on the A4A role. - A handover covered items NI had progressed, including reviews and audit of NFPGS activity, various platforms & websites. Parkscharter site re-activated. - MF noted certain items on the NFPGS website remain inaccessible, but in need of revision – hope to follow this up with Dave Hastings (former 'webmaster') - Further work will review / revise email addresses and establish an active shared drive. - Review includes MailChimp (bimonthly newsletter), LinkedIn and Facebook – the latter needs revising as a charity account. - Further work to review passwords / links for JustGiving - DM is her line manager. He confirmed he needs to approve invoices then forward to SQ-H. - Noted that there will be some carry over of unused work hours from NI – SQ-H to reconcile spend and update re. current grant balance. - Discussion re. mailing list and contacts. NS to share his current list with DM for further discussion to rationalize details for MF before doing this year's phone round to Forums re the AGM.	MF SQ-H NS/ DM

¹ <https://news.hackney.gov.uk/news/end-austerity-now-hackney-hosted-summit-to-confront-local-government-funding-crisis>

Partnership working/ networking/ events/ enquiries	
- The link to the ‘Love Exploring’ app (via NFPGS partnership with NewRedo Ltd) for setting up local online games/trails has been positive with around 120 groups showing interest. - Although it requires input from local groups around 50 have progressed with the app. - Ongoing discussion on future use and possible charges. - Current opportunities to develop Hallowe’en themed trails. - SQ-H confirmed successful adoption at Victoria Park, with discussions to use a local sponsor and link with a multi-media scarecrow trail. - SQ-H reported positive links with Love Exploring, with her local site becoming a case study and benefitting from discounted rates. - It is hoped details will be available to share with other groups as an example of the trail potential. - Suggestion that this could be a theme for an online seminar with Love Exploring to explain the app.	
NFPGS AGM – 26 September	
- NS shared a draft Agenda ahead of the meeting. - SQ-H has prepared the Annual Report. Subject to minor updates this will be shared and MF agreed to upload to the NFPGS website. - NS to share the link to this, and the previous (2025) AGM mins with AGM Agenda and reminder message. - Discussion item: How do we try to ensure adequate funding for the UK’s public green spaces? ○ How can we try to ensure they get the funding and staffing they need? ○ How can Forums and Friends Groups speak out and lobby effectively? ○ What do we do in the meantime to try to mitigate the chronic lack of budgets and resources? - NS and Dave have put out I empublicity to Forums. Intend to do a phone round as well.	SQ-H / MF NS DM and NS
AOB	
- The NFPGS Calendar will need refreshing for 2027 – MF agreed to review and revise to link with other key dates, link to newsletters, etc.	MF
Date of Next Meetings	
Saturday 26 September 2026: 10am-12pm Annual General Meeting, & 12pm-1pm Trustees zoom meeting Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9213929960?pwd=Y1QyYi9iK2ZjY2VrdFk3RVh2Qm5Sdz09 Meeting ID: 921 392 9960 Password: FOVPS <u>Funding sub-group (SQ-H, PG, MF, NS)</u> 7:30pm Monday 19 October	All SQ-H / PG MF / NS

Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/390790296512349?p=vQxGbRCn3oqSSx2J4B Meeting ID: 390 790 296 512 349 Passcode: bd6Su6Yj <u>Trustees Meeting (provisional)</u> 7.30pm Tuesday 17 November	All
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