



Friends of Crofton and Sparrow Woods (FOC&SW)

Minutes of Zoom Committee meeting at 6:30pm on 26 April 2022

**Present**

Jane Andrews  
Kirsty Blackman  
John Bray  
Karen King  
Claire Osborn

**1. Introductions and welcome**

Idverde were not asked to be represented at the meeting again. It was agreed that the purpose of the meeting minutes was to record decisions, not discussion.

**2. Minutes from last meeting**

The previous minutes and action points were reviewed and agreed with the caveat that an extra line be added about vehicles.

**Action Point 1: Jane to revise and add Committee Meeting minutes to the website**

**2. Update on developments**

**2.1 Noticeboards**

A noticeboard for the recreation ground has been commissioned, but the carpenter has gone quiet, and there are issues raised by Idverde ranger Angela Wood about H&S and risk assessments

**Action point 2: Jane to resolve H&S/risk assessment issues and chase carpenter.**

**2.2 Waste bins**

No progress. Is this an issue we wish to raise at a council meeting?

**Action point 3: Jane to chase the Council again.**

**3. AGM**

AGM worked well, good turnout, Stephen Lofting was an excellent speaker, and 3 local councillors attended. Next time attendees will be invited to optionally give their names.

**4. Events**

Jane to give a brief talk on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May on the history of the Woods to 180 year 1's at Crofton Infants School before leading them on a tour of the area.

FOCSW have a stall at the May Fayre on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. No further school events are planned.

**Action point 4: Karen to chase organiser**

**5. Projects**

Jane and Angela Wood met with Anita Zamboudo about the path on the 4<sup>th</sup> side of the playing fields. Given the clay soil it would need to be tarmac with substantial foundations, and if built to a wheelchair acceptable 2.0m wide the 150m length might cost £30-50k, with the problem the side paths are non-compliant being only 1.0m wide. The committee view was that this was looking much less possible than before.

Funding a multi-gym next to the pavilion is also likely to require a lot of red tape, as the funding bodies would need a detailed case demonstrating the area was a deprived one. Council suggested alternatives like enhancing the playground equipment were thought to be something they should handle themselves, and concerns were raised that progressing this could be a lot of work with no guarantee of success.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> idea, the replacement bridge at Gumping Common, was not discussed.

## 6. Infrastructure

There are meant to be 4 benches round the recreation ground, one by the pavilion, 2 next to the horses and 1 by the woods. The latter 3 were vandalised and removed last year, and when new benches were installed in March they were stolen very quickly and their plinths ruined.

**Action point 5: Kirsty to meet with Angela Wood to discuss this difficult situation**

Another bike track has appeared on the private land to the SW.

**Action point 6: Jane to consider informing Natural England.**

## 7. Membership

Numbers increase slowly, and its hoped we can transition from paper membership forms to electronic ones. Claire plans to contact members of more than a year standing to arrange renewal by the end of the summer.

**Action point 7: Claire to produce an electronic form and then start the renewal process**

## 8. Finances

Current balance £1287.57. It was agreed that the Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary would be the 3 signatories allowed on the Metrobank account.

## 9. AOB

The COP group (ex Orpington Field Club) visited the woods and gave us lots of useful advice about our fungi.

The presence of idverde vehicles in the woods was raised again.

**Action point 8: Jane to ask Ian Wright to drive less far down the London Loop, only bring in 1 vehicle for the Bromley Conservation Volunteer sessions, and be flexible on the work done depending on the ground conditions. An inspection will be held at the final work session on 28<sup>th</sup> June.**

Meeting closed 7:59 pm, next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July.

John Bray