

## FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDENS

### MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP - COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2024 at 14.30. - VOLUNTEERS CABIN

The meeting commenced at 11am.

#### PRESENT

Catherine Dann, Sue Smales, Jo Oliver, Sue Place, Susan Toms, Chris Groom, Malcolm Penny, Denise Read, Christine Lake, Paul Lake, plus invitee Andy Weller for first main item only

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Keith Barnard

#### MINUTES OF MEETING 5TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 11AM - VOLUNTEERS CABIN

Approved

#### PUBLICATIONS FUNDS AND FUNDING - A.W.

AW reported -- For those not around in 2011/2012 - some background. No agreement on committee to establish Community Archive (CA).

Lesley and I pressed ahead with Eastcote House and Gardens: The Peoples and the Place, with sponsorship to meet printing costs coming from some committee members, NHRA residents and Gibbs Gillespie. This issued as an EHG CA publication.

Seven publications followed. Eastcote House Uncovered including Long Meadow is the latest and the LAST- as a CA publication. All this activity was agreed with Lesley outside of the Committee's remit.

What happened over 10 years ago and beyond does not mean that we should not have a discussion, particularly as Lesley is no longer with us.

I take the issue of the calendars as an example. I was comfortable for profits from sales not going to the publications sub-account, but Lesley considered otherwise. Should sales profits go to the general account in future? (see below) As for the very handsome amount of money in the sub-account, can I return to this after mentioning the archive.

The archive contains material from my research for the publications, material about groups and information passed from locals that do not fit into any of our publications and other material such as 1950s-1960s ERA magazines that includes useful material, such as a retelling of Benson's walk-through Eastcote in 1911 that appears in the Eastcote Old Farms publication. Paul Davidson from Local Studies at Uxbridge Library kindly provided me with an Excel template to form the catalogue that appears on our website page.

Lesley's aim was to work with LBH to have finds of interest returned to EHG for display in the dovecote once the floor is made good. Display cabinets required and I am happy for cost to come from the publications sub account.

The USB of all the publications is archived in the filing cabinet on the first floor of the Stables.

ST asked if a reprint of any of the books would be necessary and AW replied that there was enough stock to last for a considerable time.

As the proposed last AW book publication has happened It was suggested that the monies in the publications separate record and future sales should now be added to the general fund.

This was agreed. Andy Weller left the meeting.

#### CRAFT ACCOUNT

SS said she would also be very happy for the Craft Group money to be included in the main account and this was agreed.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Susan Dalloe is meeting with JO and CG to establish where the finds are being stored and to see if they can be returned to EHG.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT - KB

As at the meeting date 21/02/2024 FEHG account balances as follows:

General Account	£6242.30
Archive/Publications	£5343.98
Craft Group	£1620.90
Community Savings/Reserve Fund	£5095.32

#### MONUMENT TO LESLEY – CG

The proposal to name the Walled Garden the Lesley Crowcroft Walled Garden has been approved by Hillingdon Council.

CG had circulated pictures of a possible plaque, one in brass and one in silver.

The committee was divided 3/3 on the choice but CG approved the brass and suggested that 30" x 15" would be a better size, but this is to be confirmed together with its exact location.

A discussion followed on the actual wording on the plaque, and this will be discussed later.

The Council has proposed 30th May for the ceremony which will include the Mayor and the Leader of the Council. CG will discuss with Council as Lesley's family will have to be consulted.

JB suggested that maybe a packet of seeds dedicated to Lesley could be distributed to everyone on behalf of FEHG. JB agreed to investigate further.

#### SUMMER FAIR COMMITTEE EVENT - CG

CG confirmed that Morris Dancers, Simply Grey (band), Fire Brigade, Storyteller, dog show, ice cream van, scout wall, face painting, Pimms garden and ferrets plus the Mayor had all been booked. Subsequent to the meeting it has been agreed that CG, MP and JB will meet with Kam Kaira of Ellis and Co on Thursday 29th February to discuss sponsorship of estate agent ad signs/donation

#### APRIL EVENT

SS asked for clarification of the April date. The Classic Car meeting will not take place as originally arranged so the stables booking needs to be amended to Saturday 20th April 8am-1pm. Post meeting note - booking amended.

#### HERITAGE DAY ARRANGEMENTS - ST/JB/KB

ST said that Susan Dalloe had been booked as well as the stables. EHS and BL also booked.

ST/JB investigating bands. JB to book First Aider.

This year the Classic Car Show will be supporting the Hillingdon Brain Tumour Trust. All entry fees paid by Classic Car exhibitors will go to the Trust. It will be the responsibility of the Trust volunteers to collect all monies and help with stewarding. The Trust will also have a gazebo and stall to promote awareness of their work.

#### ADVERTISING - PL/CG

Adverts to be placed in various Residents' Association magazines and websites, Pinner Local and Hillingdon People. MP to put on Next door.

#### EASTCOTE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SP said that the spring show would be on Saturday 16th March, the summer show on Saturday 15th June and the autumn show on Saturday 7th September. Display team all organized.

#### PHILLIP TOMS – CARDS-ST.

ST showed samples of PT photographs and cards of EHG which he proposes to sell at the events to raise funds for FEHG. The printing costs will be paid for by the Friends and all proceeds from the sales will go to the Friends'. This would not normally interfere with the Craft Group cards or Dave's cards.

Unanimously agreed.

#### LONDON IN BLOOM - JO

4 categories have been entered- Our Community, Walled Garden, Park and It's Your Neighbourhood.

#### PLANTING - JO

Jubilee Bed - original planting was considered not to be satisfactory. The replacement Royal Burgundy has been planted and suggested dwarf rhododendrons, azaleas and autumn shrubs to bring winter colour.

Walled Garden- we need climbers and winter colour. In the main bed, a winter structure is required. JO to do costing and submit her firm proposals.

#### BANK CARD READER -KB

KB has spoken to Nat West again who say that this is not yet available for Community Groups only true Business Account holders. They indicated that it should be available soon and said they would let KB know.

#### APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE

£320 for new Jubilee Bed Tree - approved

£120 - 2 trained fruit trees - approved

#### FIRST AID POSSIBLE COURSES - CL

FS informed CL that the First Aid courses arranged by the Council are free. CL to send details to CG for circulation.

#### FIRE SAFETY - KB

KB still in contact with FS regarding the fire extinguishers, fire exit signs, water testing and electrical testing. KB informed that it will be included as part of EHG estate, Stables, cafe etc.

To date, KB not seen any action but continually chasing.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BEDS, BORDERS AND OTHER AREAS - CG

Need to keep pushing for volunteers to take responsibility of a bed.

#### NEW BENCH, NEW TREE - CG

FEHG not informed before new seat and new tree installed. Council have since moved tree to Rodney Gardens entrance as opposed to in the middle of the bed where the old house used to be, The bench was installed overlooking the prairie bed.

#### GARDENING - JO

The new proposals for the rose beds at each end of the compound were approved.

#### FRUIT TREES FOR WALLS - JO

Trained trees inside north wall to replace lost trees - approved

#### PARK MAINTENANCE ITEMS - CG

Dovecote, stables, garden walls, paths, etc. The big crack in the wall has been repaired. Unsure if and when other maintenance going ahead. CG to follow up.

#### AOB

PL asked for more prizes for the tombola. He will send a note to CG for distribution.

SS asked for approval of £80 for 10 new grasses for prairie bed - approved.

SP requested approval for expenditure for alpines - approved.

Outdoor Classroom - PL and CL said that Forest School would advise but before going ahead it was important to sort out toilet facilities and where to leave coats for the school children. Often the cafe is closed and therefore no toilet facilities.

The lease for the café (who open and close the toilets) is coming up for renewal shortly and CD suggested ask Councilors if the cafe could be open from 9am-5pm as the play area is unable to be improved until such facilities are available.

MP said that tree work was required in the area. MP to raise with KB - all Council garden maintenance to go through KB.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm