

## **FRIENDS OF WINDMILL GARDENS (CIO no. 1176991)**

### **MINUTES OF GENERAL/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

Held in person and online by Zoom at

BRIXTON WINDMILL CENTRE, 100 Blenheim Gardens, London SE2 5DA

At 7PM, 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

### **MINUTES**

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

##### **In person**

**Members:** Ann Lee, Annick Alet, Bill Linksey, Jean Kerrigan, Margery Povall, Marita Brown, Nick Weedon, Toussainte Reba (Chair), Oliver Hatch, Pru Ashby, Penny Steele, Liz du Parcq, Robert Adie, Viv Whittingham (Minutes), Sheila Hearsurn, Jane Llewellyn, Mark Gordon, Kim Winter, Mags di Ciegli

**Non-members:** Abel Holsborough, Adrian Flower, Andrew Forbes, Anna Franklin, Bertrand Moullier, Eric Harveson, Gemma Pacquette, Greg Furlong, Louis Gonzalez, Niamh Carey, Pen MacRae, Priscilla Amankwah, Sarah Gardner, Shanice Thompson, Sylvia Angrisani, Teresa Israel, Thomas Allen, Tom Smith (LBL), Cllr Maria Kay.

##### **By Zoom:**

**Members:** Sarah Bracken, Sonam Sikka.

#### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION BY THE NEW CHAIR:**

Toussainte Reba (Chair) thanked all members for attending. She said she was delighted to be Chair, would build on the work achieved by the previous Chair and support FoWG to achieve a sustainable business model. She summarised activities that had continued throughout the pandemic and those that had taken place more recently. She paid tribute to the previous Chair, volunteers, staff, members and partners in the local community for their roles in making FoWG a success. She quoted the Social Impact survey showing that 72% of visitors were extremely likely to recommend FoWG activities to others.

#### **FoWG PRIORITIES FOR 2022-2023**

Speaking to a presentation, the Chair detailed the priorities agreed by the Board for the present year in the areas of Fundraising, Building Maintenance, Events, Education, Parks, Milling, Archives and History, Volunteering, Governance and Board Development, Communications and Partnerships, and Policies, including a Health and Safety review.

#### **NEW STAFF TEAM:**

The Chair reported that two staff members had been appointed: Catherine Hamilton, Community Centre Manager, and Abel Holsborough, Heritage/Community Engagement Officer. She said that Catherine was unable to attend the meeting. She introduced Abel and explained that this post was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for three years and the first year would focus on, amongst other things, recruiting people with learning disabilities

into our team of volunteers. It would build on our existing partnership work with Share Community.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME:** Niamh Carey and Shanice Thompson, members of Share Community, a local organisation providing learning and wellbeing resources to help adults with learning disabilities, autism, and other support needs, described the way their organisation had engaged with FoWG, particularly with working in the café. They reported they were seeking funding to develop a sensory garden in the park.

## Q & A

Questions were posed and answered on the following topics:

- future tranches of recruiting volunteers from underrepresented groups;
- the work of the archive and history group;
- heritage walks;
- social media activity and a call for someone to manage the twitter feed; and
- how to apply to become a volunteer.

## VOLUNTEERING AT BRIXTON WINDMILL.

Eric Harvison and Priscilla Amankwah were invited to describe their reasons to become volunteers and their experiences of volunteering. Both said it had developed their interests and they had found it a rewarding experience.

The Chair thanked all volunteers and the Trustees.

She paid special tribute to Jeff Thomas. She said, "Jeffrey Bernard Thomas, who stood down as a Friends of Windmill Gardens trustee at our last AGM in November, died on 14th January this year. Jeff had been in and out of hospital following a diagnosis of Lymphoma of the stomach last July. He is sorely missed by all his Friends at Brixton Windmill. We first met Jeff in September 2015 when he booked a tour of the windmill and immediately signed up to be a volunteer joining the Friends later that month. He attended the General Meeting we held in the Market Tavern on Coldharbour Lane in November where we launched a petition to get Lambeth to release £350k they said they had earmarked to build an education centre for Brixton Windmill. After that Jeff became an increasingly active member of the Friends attending the Spring General meeting in 2016 – the 200th anniversary year of the windmill." She invited people to donate at <https://www.brixtonwindmill.org/get-involved/donate/> to a memorial for him, and an event would be held later in the year.

To conclude, the Chair reminded people that the following events were taking place: 2 May – Beer & Bread Festival; 7 & 8 May – National Mills Weekend; 14 August – Art in the Park; 25 September – Harvest Festival; 8 September – Annual Windmill Talk and November – AGM

7. **DRINKS AND SOCIAL** The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m. and was followed by a social.