

FURZEDOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2023,
At The Furzedown Project

<p>1. Present & Apologies</p>	<p>Present: Sarah Forester (Chair), Steffi Backhouse, Judi Gasser, Anna Godsiff, Anthony Langan, Peter Ramell (notes), Lynn Selwyn-Reeves, Angie Stephenson, Jo Town, Hannah Wallden</p> <p>Apologies: Leonie Cooper, Camilla Duncan, Gemma Dunning, Sofie Henell, Monika Ivanova, Adam Seymour-Davies, Dawn Thomas</p>
<p>2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising</p>	<p>Minutes of 6 September meeting agreed.</p> <p>We would continue to hold a decision on a donation to the Project in memory of James, until the position was clearer.</p> <p>Sarah had emailed Mark of Furzedown Pride to clarify the money that FCN was holding on Pride's behalf.</p> <p>Steffi would be contacting the orchestra for Jazz on the Lawn next year, with a view to an early September date. Action: SB</p> <p>Anthony said there had been no major developments on defibrillators since his update at the previous meeting. A definitive response from BT on the phone box was still awaited.</p>
<p>3. Treasurer's update, including merchandise</p>	<p>Hannah reported that as of Wednesday 4 October 2023 the current balance (assuming all cheques cleared) was £16,650.75. This was an increase of £37.37 from September's balance of £16,613.38. This is predominantly due to membership fees.</p> <p>The FCN stall at the Dog Show had made a slight surplus, of £6.05 (expenditure £49.30, receipts £55.35)</p> <p>Merchandise had not been selling very well. Following discussion, agreed we would reduce the prices, particularly of tea towels (currently £10). We would sell merchandise at the Quiz Night and the Christmas lights switch-on, and see how that went. We might also consider holding a stand-alone stall at some stage, probably outside the Project.</p>
<p>4. Website</p>	<p>Work on the new website had been completed as far as was possible ahead of obtaining the new storage space required for it to go live. We would wait for the next offer from Wix of a reduced rate for the required storage (offers appeared to be coming every few weeks). Payment would need to be made online, and Hannah would liaise with Iain to arrange this.</p> <p>Action: HW Once the increased storage was obtained, proofing and testing could be carried out and the new website could go live. For the present we would continue to pay for the existing site, though it was noted that the charge for this had increased substantially in September. It was also noted that the existing site was subject to a large number of attempted hacks.</p> <p>It would be necessary for the new site to hold the FCN privacy policy. It was not clear where the existing policy was. Sarah would check with Dawn and David (Andrew). Action: SF</p> <p>The new site would be easier to maintain and update than the previous site, so more people could do this. It would be useful for a few people to be trained in this, so as to be ready to maintain the new site when launched.</p> <p>Many thanks to Lynn and Iain for their work on the new site.</p>
<p>5. Wandsworth's bid to be London Borough of Culture 2025</p>	<p>Anthony reported on the meeting he had attended on Wandsworth's bid. The plans being drawn up involved a strong element for art. It was also intended to stage larger events which would attract people into the borough, and raise awareness of Wandsworth. It was likely that the plans would focus on the southern part of the borough. It seemed unlikely that there would be a direct role for FCN in the plans being made, but we would have a role in communication.</p>
<p>5. Review of newsletter, and other communication</p>	<p>We might want to seek feedback from FCN members about the newsletter. It was though noted that 95% of the recipients had opened the newsletter and only two people had unsubscribed. The newsletter did require a lot of preparation (although some of the production process had been streamlined), and the content would be of interest to the wider Furzedown community as well as members. It was noted that while the newsletter was sent just to FCN members, it would subsequently be put on the website, and so be available more widely, while members would retain the 'perk' of receiving it first.</p> <p>Provisionally, the next newsletter was planned to be issued in the last week in November.</p> <p>On a related point, Sarah would discuss with Jo how the new membership system could be used to send out more frequent, and shorter, messages to FCN members. Action: SF JT</p>
<p>6. FCN membership</p>	<p>Numbers joining FCN recently had been relatively small. It would be useful to have again a</p>

	<p>special offer for life membership. It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for a period during November and December we would offer life membership for £60 rather than £75. (This would need to be done manually by completion of a form rather than via the Mojo system, which was set up for £75.) Action: AS SF - in the new year, we would have a further membership drive, referring to the likelihood of another large event in the summer.
7. Feedback from recent event - stall at Fun Dog Show	The stall had been successful though, given the rain, hot drinks would probably have been popular than cold. We would aim to have a stall at next year's Dog Show.
6. Forthcoming events	<p><u>War Walk Talk - 5 November</u>. This was booked. Sarah would be there but it would be useful for some other people to join her. We were giving copies of the leaflet to all local primary schools.</p> <p><u>Quiz - 11 November</u> We were awaiting confirmation from Gemma about having a bar. If we have one, we would serve mulled wine. Helpers would be needed.</p> <p><u>Christmas lights switch-on 1 December</u> It was agreed not to pursue Riverside Radio's involvement since the cost would be £1000. The Goldfinch choir was coming and we would approach Furzedown and Penwortham. A small planning group was needed to work with Sarah on the event. It was agreed that Sarah would organise a Zoom meeting with Anna, Hannah and Leonie to take this forward. Action: SF AG HW LC</p>
7. Proposal for grants for environmental projects	We considered Sarah's proposal (email of 27 September). This was agreed, although it was decided that to accommodate possibly smaller projects we would specify that grants would be a "maximum of £300". It seemed best to keep the scheme wide-ranging and not to seek to define "environment" more specifically. We would probably launch this at the AGM.
8. Mural Mosaic Global Roots Project	It was agreed that Anna would consider this further, probably in January, and produce a more specific proposal for possible FCN involvement.
10. A.O.B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was noted that there was considerable discussion of the proposed traffic changes for Mitcham Lane/ Southcroft Road, although this would not be a subject for FCN. 2. Cycle hangers needed to be installed by the Council. More were being obtained but there was currently a long waiting list for their introduction. 3. Judi said that she was trying to get more action on youth projects in Furzedown, developing what was currently being done by Enable and FYC, and also trying to get the 'Youth Bus' into Furzedown. 4. It was noted that there were continuing reports of some children developing rashes apparently from equipment at the Rec. It was agreed that this was for Enable to investigate and resolve. 5. Lynn noted that the Wandsworth Artists' Open House event - the first since 2019 - was about to start.

**Next Committee meeting -
Wednesday 1 November 2023, 7.30pm**