

**FURZEDOWN COMMUNITY NETWORK**  
**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 10 January 2024,**  
**At The Furzedown Project**

<p><b>1. Present &amp; Apologies</b></p>	<p><b>Present:</b> Sarah Forester (Chair), Leonie Cooper, Gemma Dunning, Judi Gasser, Sofie Henell, Peter Ramell (notes), Angie Stephenson, Jo Town, Hannah Wallden</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Steffi Backhouse, Camilla Duncan, Anna Godsiff, Monika Ivanova, Anthony Langan, Lynn Selwyn-Reeves, Adam Seymour-Davies, Dawn Thomas</p>
<p><b>2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising</b></p>	<p>Minutes of 1 November meeting agreed.</p> <p>We considered Sarah's proposed FCN privacy statement. This was agreed, with the addition of a statement that the data on the FCN membership system (Mojo) was held on a server in the UK. We would put the statement on the new website, and add a reference to it in suitable places (eg in the footnote to mailing lists).</p> <p><b>Action: SF JT</b></p>
<p><b>3. Treasurer's update</b></p>	<p>Hannah reported that as of Wednesday 10 January the current balance (assuming all cheques cleared) was £17,756.93. This was an increase of about £900 on the previous month, mainly due to receipt of the grant from the Thrle Almshouse for the defibrillator work.</p> <p>Hannah and Sarah had done some analysis of funds likely to be available in 2024, taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the amount needed to run FCN = around £3,500</li> <li>• ring fencing of £1,000 for the environmental grants project</li> <li>• the cost of relatively smaller events such as Run/Walk/Scoot and the Christmas lights switch-on (£1,000)</li> <li>• a grant being held for the defibrillator project (£750)</li> <li>• that while there had been considerable income in 2023 from membership payments with the offers for life membership, income in 2024 would be lower</li> <li>• that we are holding about £1,200 (within the above balance) for Furzedown Pride from the event in the summer</li> </ul> <p>From this analysis it seemed likely that about £5,500 might be available for a larger-scale event or project in 2024.</p> <p>As a general point, we should have in mind that, while previously FCN had had fairly substantial reserves, these were now lower and there could be some constraints on expenditure. We might need to reconsider how the proceeds from some of our events were used, and to consider how we might raise money. We would consider these points further at the next meeting.</p> <p>We had spent £1,700 on merchandise and so far had received £790 from sales (including money received from Aspire). We would therefore need to sell about a further £900 of items to break even on the original purchase.</p>
<p><b>4. FCN events since last meeting</b></p>	<p><b><u>War Walk talk, 5 November</u></b> - had gone very well, with 36 people attending. At this and the other recent events it would have been useful to have the Sum Up machines (or collecting buckets) more readily available to encourage donations, and we would aim to do this for the future.</p> <p><b><u>Quiz, 11 November</u></b> - had been very successful, raising a substantial amount for the Foodbank. It would have been useful to have had more people on the door, and at the bar. It was noted that Paul had stood down as quizmaster, and we would need find a successor (if we were to run a quiz this year).</p> <p><b><u>Christmas lights switch-on, 1 December</u></b> - had also gone very well, although it would have been preferable to have had more volunteers. 120 children had attended the grotto, including a number whose families could not have afforded a paying event. The involvement of the schools, and of St Alban's Church in providing free hot chocolate and mince pies, had been very welcome. We would plan for this coming year's event to be on Friday 6 December. We would try to arrange for the Mayor to arrive earlier. We would investigate better arrangements for a snow machine.</p>
<p><b>5. Update on defibrillators</b></p>	<p>We considered Anthony's report, which was very helpful - many thanks to him for taking forward this work. The three intended locations for standalone units looked good. It was thought that some clarification of the financial position and implications would be useful. Peter would ask Anthony for a note on the budget for the work. <b>Action: PR AL</b></p>

<b>6. Grant scheme for environmental projects</b>	We considered Sarah's note about FCN environmental projects funding. This was agreed with a few specific amendments, including clarifying that the scheme was specific to Furzedown. It was agreed that it would be best not to give a deadline for applications. We would launch the scheme at the AGM. We would aim to approach schools and PTAs, among others. <b>Action: SF</b>
<b>7. Provisional planning for 2024</b>	A possible large event for 2024 would be a Furzedown Fun Day on the same lines as last year.
<b>8. New website</b>	No update was available. Peter would check with Lynn on the position. <b>Action: PR LSR</b>
<b>9. Newsletter and other communication</b>	The latest newsletter had been issued at end-November. There was some question as to whether everyone had received it: Jo would check on the position. <b>Action: JT</b> . For future issues, Jo would no longer have access to Canva, used in producing the newsletter. Jo would discuss this with Lynn. <b>Action: JT LSR</b> . A possibility would be for FCN to purchase Canva.
<b>10. FCN membership</b>	No major developments.
<b>11. AGM - initial planning</b>	<p>It was agreed that Wednesday 28 February would be the better date for the AGM. Sarah and Jo would inform members. <b>Action: SF JT</b>.</p> <p>Sarah, Hannah and Angie would be standing down from their roles at the AGM, and we would therefore need a new Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Peter would inform the committee of this, and would also check with other committee colleagues who was planning to stand again for the committee <b>Action: PR</b>.</p> <p>The format of the AGM would probably be similar to previous years, including the Chair's report, accounts, and election of officers and committee. It would include the launch of the environmental projects funding scheme, and information on the new website. Peter would circulate a suggested draft agenda. <b>Action: PR</b>.</p>
<b>10. A.O.B</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leonie said that the traffic changes to Mitcham Lane, following consultation, would be going to the Council Transport Committee in February.</li> <li>2. Judi said that results of the first consultation on changes to the Rec were being analysed, and a proposed design developed, on which the Council would consult further.</li> <li>3. Gemma said that MLBC would be running a clothes swop on 23 February, with proceeds going to the Furzedown Youth Centre. Paul Rook would be leaving FYC at the end of April.</li> </ol>

**Next Committee meeting -  
Wednesday 7 February 2024, 7.30pm**