

Woodcote Millennium Green Trust AGM

8 p.m. Thursday 12th March 2009

Epsom Sports Club

1 Welcome and Introductions

Chris Frost, chairman of the trustees, welcomed 14 local residents to the 10th AGM of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust. The trustees were introduced, including Shirley Edgehill who represents the Hospital trust and who was attending her first AGM.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from John Parsloe, Derek Warrilow, Annette Richmond and Luke Jennings.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

These were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

4 Trustees' Report & Accounts for the year ended 31.12.08.

These were presented by Ian Allely, treasurer, and were made up of four parts:

Trustee accounts & report – the trust is close to achieving its initial target of patrons

Financial examiners report – this has been signed as duly examined

Expenditure & receipts – the major item of expenditure over the past year had been the repairs and renovations to the pond. The trustees were grateful to Atkins plc for a donation to provide tools.

Statement of Assets – this is a formal requirement by the Charities Commission.

Ian Allely enlarged on various aspects of the reports:

Woodcote Millennium Green trust had seen a decline in the paper value of its investments over the past year, in common with other investors. Although the market value of the investments in Investment Units had fallen, the trust was in the fortunate position that one of the trustees had agreed to underwrite any losses above an agreed figure. Approximately 25% of the trusts assets are held in cash.

In response to questions from Mr Wookey, the treasurer further explained that the investments were in a Charity Investment fund. The trustees were investing for the long term, and historically equities have performed well over such periods. While accepting that the money generated from investments was declining, the treasurer pointed out that it was still producing a steady income. He confirmed that the trustees had taken expert advice on the best way to invest the funds in the present financial climate, and reminded those present that the trust was only seeing a paper financial loss, and that it was not envisaged that the capital would be required in the next few years.

Ian Allely further explained about how donations were used. He explained that there had been a 'restricted' donation. This had been from Atkins plc, and was specifically for purchasing tools. Tools had been purchased with this money, whereas other donations went into the general fund and were used or invested as required.

Ian Allely thanked Gavin Cook for his help with examining the accounts, and announced that Mr Cook had agreed to do this for the trust for the coming year.

5 Woodcote Millennium Green Patrons

Chris Frost reported that there are currently 97 patrons, with the target of 100 in sight. There are a few patrons who had signed up to the annual payments scheme, but have apparently 'dropped out'. This may be as a result of changing bank accounts, and will be followed up. Many of the patrons have made a 'one-off' payment, and so over £16,000 of the target £25,000 has already been raised. Once the target of 100 patrons has been reached, a social event is planned when the prize draw will be held.

6 Future Plans

Chris Frost explained how the maintenance days were now organised, and thanked Mark Swan for his work with this. There have been a good number of helpers, and it was pleasing to have families involved, with the children all managing to lend a hand.

Tasks for the coming year include keeping the pondweed and reeds under control, and removing ivy from trees. The ivy needs to be removed so that it does not disguise the fact that trees may have died and therefore be in danger of falling.

Next year will be 10 years since the official opening of the Millennium Green in Summer 2000, and the Trustees will be considering whether to organise some celebration to mark the event.

The Woodcote Millennium Green website is attracting significant interest, and a breakdown of the pages looked at and the search-words to access it was shown on the display panel.

7 Questions / suggestions

Two fundraising activities were highlighted. Waitrose in Epsom has a scheme whereby shoppers are given a green token each time they shop. The tokens can be put into a choice of three boxes, each representing a local charity. At the end of a month, £1000 is divided between the three charities in proportion to the tokens in their box. The Millennium Green was one of the charities sponsored in February 2009. The Millennium Green Trust's share of the money is not yet known, but will be announced in a future Newsletter.

The search engine www.everyclick.com donates to charity for searches made using their site, and the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust is registered as one of their charities. This is another useful way of raising funds, and the link will be given in the next Newsletter.

Chris Frost thanked all the Trustees for their help, and gave particular thanks to Sue White and Mark Swan for the photographs that they had provided of the Millennium Green; to Brian Saxby for the display boards; and to Luke Jennings for his work on the website.

The formal part of the evening was concluded, and those present were invited to stay to look at the display boards and other information, and to have a glass of wine.