



Woodcote Millennium Green Trust

Charity Registered Number 1075872

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Minutes of the AGM for 2025 of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust held on Thursday 6th March 2025 at 8:00 PM at Epsom Sports Club, Woodcote Rd, Epsom, KT18 7QN

Trustees in attendance: Mark Swan, Jason Cowling, Liz Frost, Alister Harwood, Allan Stamper. Also, Chris Frost, our Life President.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman, Mark Swan, welcomed everybody and introduced the Trustees who were present and our Life President.

2. Apologies for absence

Luke Jennings, Richard Lea, and Paul Masters.

3. Minutes of AGM 2024

The Minutes were accepted as read.

4. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024

Points to note in the Trustees' report:

- One of the posts holding up the handrail on one of the bridges has rotted and needs replacing before the Fete. Mark would identify someone to come and quote and do the work.
- The initiative to sell 100 bricks secured from the demolished hospital chimney was still ongoing. There were 80 yet to sell. These would be available for sale at the Fete in September. Each brick comes with an authentication certificate from Wring Group (the demolition company). Suggestions were made of other selling opportunities to try: eBay (buyer collects), the Farmer's Market in Epsom, and through the websites of other local organisations and societies.

Points to note in the Accounts report:

- For the first time ever, a small stake had been sold from the investment in the M&G Fund (which had originally been seeded with all the Patrons Fund monies). Most of the proceeds from that sale in 2024 paid for the advisory consultancy report about securing the longevity of the pond.

- Total income rose by 49% in 2024, which included a 29% increase in residents' donations plus, the very generous gift bequeathed from the estate of a local resident.
- The Treasurer concluded that the Trust was in a sound position.
- It was hoped that proceeds from the Fete would also boost funds during what should be an enjoyable day for all those attending.

5. Fete on the Green – Celebrating its 25th Year on Saturday 6th September 2025 from 12:30 – 4:00PM

Jason highlighted the arrangements made so far for the Fete:

- The Fete Planning Committee members are Jason Cowling, Andreas Demetriades, Paul Heath, Allan Stamper, and Debbie Stamper.

Entertainment and activities confirmed so far:

- A local dance group, a balloon artist, and a Punch and Judy Show. The Ewell Morris Men have tentatively agreed to come but will confirm 'yes' or 'no' nearer the time.
- Epsom Radio would be coming to broadcast music.
- Paul Taylor would be coming and putting up live the activities on the day on the *What's On in Epsom* website.
- The RAC Club would be loaning two vehicles from their heritage collection to display at the entrance to the Fete: a 1960 van and a 1970 Austin convertible.
- The Mayor had been invited. Their attendance would be confirmed nearer the time.
- Other activities: Raffle, Millennium Quiz (for kids to take part), Tug of War.
- There will be a cake stand, and a stand showing the history and photos of the Green and surrounding area.
- Advertising: Businesses will be contacted by the committee for cash donations and Raffle prizes. A flyer will be circulated. A banner advertising the Fete will be ordered and put up on the Green every maintenance day and would remain up for the month of August. More fliers would be distributed locally.
- There would be an ad hoc maintenance session arranged in August to do a last tidy up of the Green before the Fete day.

There was a suggestion to invite our MP, Helen McGuire. Jason agreed to invite her.

Jason was still looking for a food truck company that could come set up, cook and serve food, and take their trash away afterwards. He asked for any recommendations.

6. Preserving the Pond

Alister gave an update on what the Trustees had been doing since receiving the early contractor report last year from our chosen consultant about the pond, Land & Water Services Ltd. The Trustees had installed a level gauge to track pond water levels, which they have been doing regularly since its installation. Alister said he was also in touch with a company that could install a borehole for us. He had found out that the Trust would not need a license for the installation. The borehole would be useful for topping up the pond in the future.

A comment was made that according to DEFRA, pond preservation had become a big problem nationwide due to climate change and change of use of farmland.

Jason added that soon it would be important to remove the remaining weed in the pond, which had not been removed last autumn. However, it was spawning time now for fish, frogs, newts and water insects, so the task would need to be delayed until after spawning season.

7. Further plans and suggestions

Maintenance plans: Jason said that the mower would need an overhaul this year.

There were no further suggestions to add.

8. Any other business

- To date, 10 youths have completed the service element counting towards their chosen Duke of Edinburgh Award by regularly doing litter picking on the Green and by helping distribute our Newsletters to local residents' houses.
- It was suggested that epsomandewelltimes.com could be a useful website where future events could be posted, such as the upcoming Fete.
- Allan Stamper had given notice that he would be standing down as Treasurer to the Trust at the end of December 2025. Steve Hillier would be taking on the role of Treasurer from January 2026. Steve has been a volunteer with the Trust for several years and has helped to maintain the garage and some of its contents.

After no further comments or questions, the meeting was closed at 8:27 PM.

Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments.

Debby Saxby