

Friends of Battersea Park

Registered Charity 802905

friendsofbatterseapark.org



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025

held on Tuesday 14th October 6.30pm for 7pm - 8.30pm

All Saints Church, 100 Prince of Wales Drive SW11 4BD

1. Welcome: Chairman's opening remarks

Kate Bock, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chair and thanked the Trustees and Friends for their support during the past year. Kate noted that Enable's presentation slides were displayed on screens and could be circulated after the meeting on request.

Kate introduced Neil Blackley, Head of Parks and Catie Ferguson Parks Stakeholder and Community Development Lead at Enable, Leisure & Culture and Inspector Steve Biggs and Sergeant Sunnee Arhagba of the Parks Police Service who would join the Open Forum following the formal business. She also introduced Niko Mardushaj and Steve Morris from Krinkels UK,

2. Apologies for absence were received from 10 Friends and 1 Trustee.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 8th October 2024*

- **Proposed:** Kate Bock
- **Seconded:** Fenella Barber
- The minutes were unanimously approved

4. Trustees' Report for 2023/24*

Kate Bock presented highlights from the Trustees' Report (published in *Review*, Summer Issue, and on the website). She noted:

- A successful year of community events including the summer BBQ (raising £12,000), volunteer litter pick, and the popular lectures..
- Continued attention to park maintenance, pressures from rising visitor numbers, and dialogue with Enable, Wandsworth Council, and contractors (Krinkels).
- A neutral stance on Parkrun, but with continued engagement regarding its impact.
- Funding for planting in the Winter Garden, and collaboration on the Russell Page Garden redesign.

- Active involvement in local planning matters, including submitting comments on planning applications affecting the Park.
- The Friends ended the year with **716 members**.

5. **Presentation of the Financial Statement for 2024/25 by the Treasurer***

Adrian Flook, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025, highlighting:

- Income of £37,489 and expenditure of £30,369, resulting in a surplus of £7,120.
- Total reserves of £106,402, with further growth to £124,000 at time of AGM.
- Continued strong income from events, donations, and Review advertising.
- Charitable disbursements included plants for Thrive's new sensory garden (£6,000), Katherine Low Settlement elders' programme (£2,000) and planting projects.

He noted administrative costs remained stable, but urged ideas for impactful spending without substituting for Council services.

6. **Approval of the Trustees Report and Accounts 2024/25**

- **Proposed:** Kate Bock
- **Seconded:** Fenella Barber
- The Trustees Report and Accounts 2024/25 were unanimously approved.

6. **Election of Independent Examiner for 2025/26 - George Coe**

Proposed: Kate Bock Seconded: Fenella Barber - George Coe was elected unanimously.

7. **Retirement of Trustees** Kate confirmed the retirement of Karen Buckle, Inge Darling, Peta May Law and Sally Orman offering thanks on behalf of the Committee and membership for their service.

8. **Election of new Trustees** (both currently co-opted)

- Kayt Little was proposed by Kate Bock and seconded by Fenella Barber.
- Tim Donovan was proposed by Kate Bock and seconded by Annabel Stein.

Both nominees introduced themselves and were elected unanimously. The Chair welcomed them to the Committee. (Maggie Thornton had withdrawn from consideration.)

9. **Any other Business** - No further items were raised.

The Chairman declared the formal business of the AGM closed. The meeting then broke for refreshments, after which the Open Forum was chaired by Kate Bock joined by Neil Blackley and Catie Ferguson from Enable and Steve Biggs and Sunnee Arhagba from the Parks Police Service.

** these documents were available on the Friends' website in advance of the meeting.*

Formal Meeting closed at approx. 7.16pm