



# Friends of Duxford Green Spaces



## FODGS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 JUNE 2019 AT 1800hrs

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT 9 ST JOHN'S STREET, DUXFORD

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Duxford Green spaces Association was attended by 6 members of the Association and 3 interested parties.

### 1. **Elections for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**

The following members were re-elected to the positions shown below:

- Chair: Gillian Heath
- Treasurer: Derek O'Grady (known as Roy)
- Secretary: Emma Lowndes (also known as Emma Merrells)

### 2. **The minutes of the previous meeting** were agreed.

### 3. **The financial record** was agreed. FODGS has received a £4K grant from the Dulverton Trust and income of £787.03 from donations and £215 from membership payments. Outgoings to date have been £398.94, for equipment, website, Paypal and advertising.

### 4. **Membership and Charitable Status**

There are currently 11 FODGS members (6 Family memberships). As work progresses we hope to encourage more to join and plan to distribute a leaflet with Chatterbox in the next months. Please encourage friends and colleagues to join. The webpage to join is below:

<https://friendsofduxfordgreenspaces.org/join-friends-of-duxford-green-spaces/>

FODGS is now recognised as having charitable status by HMRC, meaning that we can claim gift aid on donations. We have just this week registered with "Donate", which means we will soon be able to receive text donations. Thanks to Roy for organising this. Full details will be provided on the next leaflet and on our webpages. The short video below explains how it works:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/285849701>

### 5. **Schedule / progress update**

Landscaping will begin in early August. Planting will take place from November through to February. Work that has been agreed to be funded by Amey must be completed by May 2020 to ensure that we can claim the £50K. Thanks to Duxford Parish Council for agreeing to pay the invoices in the interim – the Amey funding can be claimed only in arrears. DPC will then be refunded.

Sincere thanks to Ashley Arbon for his botanical expertise and for offering his time, effort and equipment to cut the field during 2019. Ashley cut the field according to the design in time for the May airshow weekend and has proposed one more cut to a section of it to prevent the false oat grass setting seed.

## 6. General discussion, including:

### a. Location of litter/dog waste bins

2 dual purpose bins have been requested from South Cambs, to be sited just inside the perimeter close to each of the pedestrian entrance gates. If they agree the location, SCDC will fund and empty the bins provided they are close to the road. It is hoped that these new bins will ensure that more owners pick up after their dogs.

### b. Memorials

We already have proposals for 5 tree memorials. These will be planted after landscaping is complete. Tree memorials will be marked by a 12 x 12 inch stone, set into the ground next to the tree to allow mowing. Other proposals for memorials are invited (benches, art etc.).

It was also suggested that trees could be planted for children and grandchildren, an idea that was very well received.

### c. Community involvement

It is hoped that community will be encouraged to participate when the planting begins. We will make a concerted effort to involve the school in the various projects (planting, bug and bee hotels, habitat areas etc.)

### d. Provision of water source

We have investigated sinking a borehole to provide up to 20 cubic meters of ground water per day to top up the pond and also to provide drinking water to refill reusable bottles. Cost to do this is +/- £8K, plus whatever it costs to regularly test the drinking water for safety and quality. We are looking into grants to fund this.

### e. PR/ media

A new leaflet will be published in time for the July airshow weekend and we will hopefully circulate a couple of collection boxes. If you are willing to shake a box for even half an hour, please let us know!

### f. Art

Seeking all artists – we will invite local artists to submit their contributions for a spot on the field. It would be really good to see local sculpture and art work on display.

## 7. Any other business

**Protected status for A505 verge.** Ashley informed the meeting about his plan to obtain protected status for the verge on the north side of the A505 east of Hill Farm Road, which contains some very rare plants. FODGS fully supports this initiative and Ashley is preparing a paper for DPC approval, as this verge is within Duxford Parish.

**Open water.** Although there are no rules against it, the Chair canvassed opinion about the safety implications of introducing a pond onto the field. The unanimous opinion was that the combination of enclosed nectar garden and shallow, densely planted edges would mitigate the danger, particularly as almost all new developments are built with areas of open water. Appropriate signs will be clearly displayed.

**Launch.** The official opening of the Brewery Field community green space will take place in spring next year. Ideas are invited for stalls/ crafts on the day. As these events take considerable time and effort to organise, please send your ideas in early.

## 8. Close: The meeting closed at 1910