

Friends of Brockwell Park (FoBP)

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Date: Sunday, 5 October 2025

Time: 11:00 am

Location: The Barn, Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses

1. Attendance

Present:

Adrian Garden (Mayor of Lambeth), Lucy Akrill, Cynthia Anderson, Christine Bleathman, Madeleine Boomgaarden, Gail Bourne, Michael Boyle, John Brunton, Lucy Casson, Phili Cool, Marietta Crichton Stuart, Hetty Crist, Lucia Daniel, Keith Fitchett, Caroline Funnell, Ros Glover, Judy Harris, Derek Hoare, Susy Hogarth, Robert Holden, Ian Jones, Ann Kingsbury, Mary Lazarus, Margaret Lipsey, Matthew Mackenzie, Melanie Mauthner, Sam McIlroy, Irene McKenzie, Martha McKenzie, Antje Meyer, Laura Morland, Simon Morrow, Sheila Northover, Jocelyn Pappenheim, Noshir Patel, Alice Playle, John Steedman, Adam Steinhouse, Michael Taylor, Nicky Toms, Roy Vickery, Sandra Watts, Carolyn Weniz, Charlotte Wheeler. [= 44 persons]

Apologies:

Peter Bradley, Czech Conroy, Lee Dema, Richard Gilbert, Antonia Gross, Jen Hawkins, Judy Holman, Lara Mifsud-Bonici, Linda Spashett

2. Welcome

Chair **Laura Morland** welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to **Adrian Garden**, Mayor of Lambeth.

3. Approval of 2024 Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on **20 October 2024** were **AGREED** as a correct record. There were no urgent matters arising.

4. Chair's Report (2024-2025)

Presented by **Laura Morland**, Chair

This year marks the **40th anniversary of FoBP**. Laura reflected on the Friends' history and ongoing contributions, highlighting the group's achievements across five key themes:

- **Campaigns**
- **Restoration and Preservation**
- **Ecology**
- **Innovation and New Initiatives**

- **Accessibility**

The Chair also outlined current and future priorities:

- Continued opposition to large-scale, walled events such as those organised by **Brockwell Live**
- Volunteer-led ecological projects such as **pond de-silting** and work on the **North Meadow**
- Engagement with partners on biodiversity surveys and sustainable park management

✦ **The full Chair's Report can be accessed via <https://agm.brockwellpark.co.uk/>**

5. Treasurer's Report (2024–2025)

Presented by **Keith Fitchett**, Treasurer

Keith presented the annual accounts. A key change noted was a shift in how **restricted funds** are managed - donations for trees and benches can now support a wider range of FoBP-approved initiatives.

✦ **The accounts were RECEIVED without questions.**

Details can be accessed via <https://agm.brockwellpark.co.uk/>

6. Amendments to the Constitution

None received by the **14 September 2025** deadline.

7. Other Resolutions

None received by the **21 September 2025** deadline.

8. Election of Officers and Committee

This section was chaired by **Adam Steinhouse**.

Nominations received by the constitutional deadline of 21 September:

Role	Nominee
Chair	Michael Taylor
Vice-Chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Antje Meyer
Treasurer	Charlotte Wheeler

Role	Nominee
Membership Secretary	Nicky Toms

Committee Members (7 positions):

Laura Morland, Keith Fitchett, Michael Boyle, Phil Cool, Hetty Crist, Sam McIlroy, Jen Hawkins

Co-option: Jocelyn Pappenheim will be proposed for **co-option as Vice-Chair** at the first meeting of the new Committee.

All nominees were introduced, and incoming Chair **Michael Taylor** gave a short speech outlining three key focus areas:

1. Opposition to destructive large-scale events
2. Support ecological resilience, habitat protection and biodiversity in the park (including response to and involvement with Ecology & Landscape Management Plan - ELMP)
3. Raising FoBP's profile as the first point of contact for park users

 **The slate of officers and committee members were noted.**

9. Affiliations

FoBP will continue its affiliations with the following organisations:

- **London Wildlife Trust**
- **Lambeth Local History Forum** – **Robert Holden** volunteered as FoBP's representative
- **South London Botanical Institute**
- **Brixton Neighbourhood Forum** (added during the last year)

10. Acknowledgements & Thanks

Members warmly thanked **Laura Morland** and **Keith Fitchett**, who are stepping down as Chair and Treasurer respectively, for their tireless service and dedication.

 A tree will be donated in their name as a token of appreciation.

11. Notable Comments & Discussion

a) Remarks from the Mayor

Adrian Garden, a longstanding FoBP member, offered his support in acting as a communications link when other channels fail. He reminded members of the financial pressures facing local government but stressed the importance of **raising awareness** of the causes FoBP supports.

b) 40-Year Reflection

Adam Steinhouse provided a brief retrospective of FoBP's 40-year history.

12. Open Discussion / Questions

Members raised a range of issues, including improving FoBP communications through more regular updates and exploring social media platforms; making future AGMs more open to the wider community; ongoing concerns about poor toilet facilities in the park (outside FoBP's control); a renewed push for permanent signage about swans; and support for litter-picking initiatives. Updates were shared on Lambeth's Parks and Open Spaces consultations and proposed by-law enforcement. Finally, it was noted that park gates are likely to remain unlocked due to the high cost of locking them.

 **These and other matters raised will be referred to the Committee for consideration**

13. Additional Feedback

Attendees were invited to leave **comments on post-it notes**, which will be reviewed by the incoming Committee.

 **These and other matters raised will be referred to the Committee for consideration**

Meeting Closed