

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of CREOS held at 8.00pm on 15 May 2014 at Hanley Lawn Tennis Club

Present: 38 Members of CREOS

1. **Apologies for absence:** were received from Bernard Battley; Margaret Battley; Caryl Bradbery; Bryan Torfeh.
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 7 May 2013:** were approved. There were no matters arising.
3. **Chair's Report:** Glenys Law, Chair, presented her report covering her first year in office. A copy of the full report was distributed and Glenys said that a copy would be placed on the CREOS website. Highlights of the year included:
 - Big Lunch picnic on 2 June
 - Successful campaign against the planning application to build an inflatable dome over Holly Park
 - Renovation of CREOS footpaths and associated fund raising and grant applications.
 - CREOS website development
 - Management Plan commissioned by LB Haringey and Highgate Wood School

Glenys concluded her report by thanking her colleagues – with special mention of Andrew Kirk and John Bartlett who were retiring from the Committee after many years of valuable service.

Questions from the floor related to ownership of the CREOS lands and to the proposed creation of a new entrance from the alley to the Hanley car park.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Julian Sherwood presented his report, copies of which were distributed and a copy will be placed on the CREOS website. Julian outlined what had been an 'exceptional year'. Income was up from £1,760 to £18,417. Expenditure was up from £2,072 to £20,479. Income was boosted substantially by grants from Re-Leaf; Big Lottery Fund and LB Haringey, totalling £14,000 plus higher subscription revenue; member donations and other successful fundraising. The major expenditure [£18,503] was on the Woodland Walk and other footpaths. The balance of funds in the CREOS bank accounts as at 1 April 2014 was £7,520 compared with £9,581, the previous year.

There was one question from the floor on the tender process for selecting the footpaths contractor. Julian outlined the process which had been followed.

5. **Introduction of Guest Speaker:** Glenys introduced Alan Scott.
6. **Talk: 'Practical Nature Conservation Management'**. Alan Scott presented an illustrated talk on conservation management, with a particular focus on the Management Plan referred to in paragraph 3 above. Key points from Alan's talk included:
 - Key elements of a management plan
 - Why have a management plan?
 - What have you got? What needs to be done? By whom – and when?
 - Providing for continuity

- Need for annual revision of the plan
- Comments to the effect that the CREOS woodland is in very good condition

Alan's talk was extremely well received. Questions from the floor covered a number of topics, including: maintaining the 'Meadow'; dumping of garden refuse; ivy infestation; the boundary trees; pond creation; possibility of grazing the 'Meadow'.

7. **Vote of thanks;** was proposed by Glenys who presented Alan with a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation of those Members present.

8. **Election of CREOS Officers and Committee Members:** the election was conducted by David Abram. He noted that Andrew Kirk and John Bartlett were retiring from the Committee. All other Committee Members, including the three Officers were standing for re-election. Rob Jackson was nominated and seconded for a vacant position on the Committee. It was agreed that the election would be 'en bloc' and all Committee Members, including the Officers were elected, 'nem con'. Jeff Monks expressed an interest in attending Committee meetings with a view to possibly being co-opted during the course of the year. The Chair confirmed that he would be very welcome.

9. **AOB:** Jack Nauch thanked and congratulated CREOS on excellent work during the past year; Steve Hooper congratulated Glenys on her successful fundraising efforts; Glenys spoke about the possibility of a bird watching group being established; John Bartlett congratulated and thanked David Abram for all his work in relation to the dome planning matter and David thanked Mel Cairns [Past-Chair] for his invaluable contribution.

10. **There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50pm** and was followed by informal discussion and socialising.