



Waltham Forest 4 Dogs AGM 2017 Minutes

7.00 pm, 12th of April 2017 at The Bell, E17

Present: Sarah Mooney, Katherine Marshall, Carly Clarke, Marita Keremezo, Claire Davies, Charmaine Jordan

Chair's welcome and introduction

Sarah welcomed those who attended and commented on the increase in members on our Facebook group at over 2,400.

Treasurer's report

Marita reported that we started the year with £332.13; we had expenditures of £173.06 for car valet after a traumatic incident for one of our admins, donations, dog biscuits for fair and website hosting; income of £46 during the even last year at the View in Chingford; leaving a balance of £205.07

Carly reported that she had written confirmation that the remaining Save Fifi funds could now be donated to DDA Watch, in line with the original fund raising pledge, and Marita has made the necessary transfer of £629.39 and we no longer hold any funds from the Save Fifi campaign.

Activities reports

Walthamstow Marsh

Carly confirmed that Lee Valley Park had introduced a charge for professional dog walkers and the introduction of double yellow lines down Coppermill Lane, which make Walthamstow Marshes almost a no-go area. The car park has, on occasions, been closed early in the mornings or is often filled by cars and vans from Network Rail. Unfortunately we are not sure whether there is any chance that the double yellow lines can be reversed. Official opening/closing times of the car park are sun-up to sun-down.

WF4Dogs events

Katherine reported that last year we had three events:

- May Day Fair – we had the cut out scene board with some great pictures taken by everyone and it was also lovely that members came up just to say hello.
- We went to the doggy day at The View in Chingford, which was a lovely event with a nice dog show, that Katherine (and Shelagh) ended up judging, and it was nice to spread the word of WF4D further across the borough.
- Christmas Pawty at the Rose and Crown. A great afternoon, well attended by a number of different people to last year's and especially nice to had the support from the local RSPCA branch.

Actions

- The next May Day Fair will be on Monday 1st of May – we will be there but this time, in a more relaxed way. Come and find us. We will be there with a couple of picnic blankets. Just pop round say hello and introduce yourself and/or your dogs.

Paws Friendly sticker scheme

We now have 77 paws friendly businesses on our website, up from 69 last year.

Lost & Found Dogs

We receive an update from DET, every two weeks, of dogs that have been handed into them across WF, but regrettably not for dogs from other boroughs. Due to changes in the DET team we are waiting for things to settle down, and people into their new roles, before we have the next meeting and we will raise the subject of obtaining info dogs outside the borough.

It is surprised that 1 year after the introduction of compulsory microchipping, quite a few of the dogs found appear to be without chips. We agreed to put a reminder on our website for members to ensure that their pets are chipped, chips registered and details up to date.

Election of committee members

Charlotte Cole stood down as Secretary. She has done an amazing job and it is taking two people (Katherine and Marita) to fill her role.

Sarah Mooney was re-elected as Chair.

Marita Keremezo re-elected as Treasurer.

Katherine Marshall, Fabien Ho, Carly Clarke and Claire Scott-Shala were also re-elected.

We are pleased to add Debbie Walker to the committee.

AOB

Agility Equipment

Marita has secured £500 towards agility equipment from Chapel End Ward but after further discussions it was felt that this could only get us one item, which would be difficult to secure, it may not be the right park for agility equipment. What is needed is a sign for queue etiquette in the enclosed off lead area. Marita to check with the councillors from Chapel End if funds could be used for that and for us to see if anyone in the WF4D would volunteer to design a clear and friendly sign.

Carly mentioned that Highams Park Recreation Centre, and the people who run it, are extremely keen to have agility equipment in their park and a proposal has been presented to the relevant councillors. Update to follows.