



Friends of Valley Gardens "Harrogate"
Harrogate's Award-Winning Park
Charity No: 1148369



President: Martin Fish

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in the Brostoff Centre, St Peter's Church, Harrogate at 7.30 pm on Thursday 13 March 2014

Present: Jane Blayney (Chairman), Peter Blayney, Martin Fish, Anne Grange, Derek Evans, Pamela Delahay-Walmsley, Andrew Jordan, Jenny Travena, Liz Chidlow, Tony Sissons, Richard Dobson, Robert Grange, Trish McLaughlin, Jeanette Marshall, Howard Marshall, Brenda Exall, Sharon Hardcastle, Sue Wood, Christine Stewart, Mike Hine, Simon Collier, Anne Broadbent, Paula Collier, David Haxby, Malcolm Neesam, Phillip Knight, Jean Knight, Elizabeth Keeler, Jenny Kimpton, Margaret Dunham, Simon Roberts, Kim Wilson.

Apologies: Jon Collins, Jim Clark, Barbara Stone, Pinewoods Conservation Group.

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed those present and the speaker Malcolm Neesam.

Minutes of last AGM: These had been circulated and were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising: None.

Annual Reports: Reports from the Chairman, the Treasurer, Anne Grange, the Volunteer Gardening Co-ordinator, Tony Sissons and the Membership Secretary, Jon Collins had been circulated and were read out. (See below for copies.) Anne Grange expressed particular gratitude to the Chairman for her considerable fundraising efforts. Jane Blayney added comments from the Membership Secretary in his absence to the effect that he was carrying out a tidying up exercise and expected that some on the membership list appeared to have lapsed. They would be asked if they wished to continue. A recruitment drive would take place at the 1940s Open Day. Kim Wilson reported verbally on progress with the arrangements for the 1940s Open Day on Sunday 29 June. This year would be bigger and better than the last. More vehicles had been booked and there had been more sales of stands. Catering was to be contracted out freeing volunteers for other duties. The Harrogate Mumblers would run the tombola and Yorkshire Building Society the cake stall. Advertisers were needed for the souvenir programme. Patricia McLaughlin and Mark Coston, HBC Clerks of Works were thanked for their support throughout the year. The reports sent out previously with the agenda were accepted.

Elections: The Chairman stated that the number of Trustees was to be increased from 3 to 5, the Vice Chairman had stepped down due to pressure of work and a Young Persons' Representative had been nominated. The following had been proposed and seconded:

Vice Chairman: Jon Collins

Young Person Representative: Sally Haslewood

Trustees: Jane Blayney, Jon Collins, Peter Blayney, Anne Grange, Jim Clark

All present were in favour, therefore all were duly elected.

Any other business: This year two more grants had been received, £10,750 from Wren, applied for by Patricia McLaughlin, HBC and £10,000 from the Liz and Terry Bramall Trust. These bring the total raised to £68,000 but, following a review, it is now calculated that another £47,000 is needed to complete the project.

Peter Blayney showed an illustration of Greek Goddess of Health, Hygeia, that had featured in the past on a Harrogate poster, suggesting that the Friends may wish to adopt her as a symbol of the health-giving powers of water in the context of Harrogate's Spa Heritage and attempt to obtain some representation of her to display within the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room. A period stove, hand pump, sink, saw and "no smoking" sign were also needed.

Date of next Annual General Meeting: Thursday 12 March 2015.

There followed an illustrated talk by Harrogate's notable historian Malcolm Neesam describing the fortunes and misfortunes of the area formerly occupied by the Rose Gardens.

To conclude the evening FOVG President, Martin Fish thanked the speaker for what had been a fascinating talk much appreciated by all present.

Chairman: Jane Blayney (01423) 505231, Vice-Chairman: Jon Collins
Treasurer: Anne Grange (01423) 522720
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