



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

President: Martin Fish

**Minutes of the meeting held 6 September 2012**

**Present:** J Blayney, N Hughes, H McCallum, A Grange, R Grange, P Blayney, A Wilkinson, S Collier, P Collier, P Kilburn, T Sissons, J Peachman, B Stone, J Travena, M Mann, M Birkinshaw, B Exall

1. **Apologies for absence** – S Leigh, P Leigh, B Bentley, J Clark, B Boden, S Clarke, M Fish
2. **Minutes of the meeting held 5 April 2012** – accepted and signed as an accurate record.
3. **Matters Arising** – none
4. **HBC Report**

**New Games Pavilion** – now complete, open and proving to be a great success. Number of picnic tables increased and these have proved to be very popular. The flow around the area was reassessed and as a result the benches, the duck, the rocks and the xylophone have been repositioned. This has improved the site.

The areas disturbed by the works have been reseeded and are fenced off. This will be removed once the grass has become established. The new toilets are proving to be very popular as is the ability to buy refreshments close to hand.

**Skate Park** – there continue to be some problems with skaters and bikers riding though the park. As a result the park ranger has been requested to be extra vigilant and stop any such riding. Additional skate park user etiquette sessions have been held throughout the summer and as part of this Sk&safe, who are running the sessions, have been asked to focus on this problem. The Police continue to deal with safety issues also.

Signage has also been reviewed in the park and around the skate park, and improvements are being considered so that there is no doubt in the minds of skaters / bikers. This will include re-skinning the existing big signs on the two entrances and the intention is to turn round the one at the main entrance so it reflects the layout of the park.

**OMWPRB** – trees in and around the area have been considered and two will be removed week commencing 22 October. The Birch next to the building and a Robinia close by that is dying. There is also a dead tree to be removed opposite the café which will be dealt with at the same time. By doing it at this time will enable avoiding contractors working on the building.

Jane reported that she had given a cheque for £7881.73 to HBC for the commencement of building works and that HBC will act as Clerk of Works.

Harrogate in Bloom – annual presentations are at the Old Swan Hotel on Sunday 30 September. They have invited FOVG to attend with a display if they wish to do so, and HBC can help with display boards and their delivery to and from the event.

5. **OMWPRB update**

Contractors on site 17 September – 19 October, outside work taking place first before winter weather sets in. Some members have been digging around the building and a small mechanical digger will be on site shortly and safety fencing erected. Thanks were given to R Grange for his work preparing drawings of the proposed external paved area. The paving will have maintenance costs but we wish it to be “wheel friendly”. Removal of overgrowth will reduce works needed to the pavements.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

£23k in bank – the cheque submitted to HBC as reported above.  
£6K from Harry Bolland Fund and £5K from Arts and Heritage Fund.  
In total £31K has been raised.

## **7. Membership**

Currently stands at 200. The membership form needs to be changed to reflect gift aid and to collect other information.

L Clarke has resigned from his position of Publicity / Marketing Officer – thanks were conveyed to Liam. It was stressed that this position needs to be filled in order to attract new members. It was also suggested that each member attempt to attract 2 new members each and encourage active involvement. Also suggested that contact be made with schools to become organisation members and perhaps encourage members of PTA's to join? A list of schools can be obtained from NYCC and it was recommended that schools be contacted to help with bulb planting 2013.

**8. Police Report** – no report and those present were reminded of the relationship between the police and HBC who would be aware of any issues and would report as part of the HBC report to the ggroup.

## **9. Funding Applications**

Arts and Heritage Fund - £5K (full amount of application)

Free Masons – response pending

Yorkshire Building Society – volunteers are on board to help in the park. If any individual member has an YBS account, a grant of £250 can be applied for. B Boden who has a contact at the YBS, agreed to propose that FOVG be nominated as Voluntary Charity of the Year.

## **10. Charity Registration**

This was granted 31 July.

## **11. Duke of York Patronage Application**

Due to the large volume of applications, decisions have been delayed.

## **12. Events Update**

Pat Clarke's Open Garden was very busy and raised £602.00

Heritage Open Days – the OMWPRB will be open 7/8/9 September 12 – 4 pm. Visitors will be counted in and invited to sign a comments book which will then be followed up for potential membership.

Gardeners Question Time – publicity has been completed. This will be held in the Sun Pavilion 25 September.

Santa's Grotto – admittance £3 per child with a gift.

1940's Day – made £3k net. Date set for 2013 as 16 June. Agreed to concentrate on more games and perhaps outsource these so that our efforts can be put into financially lucrative areas such as food stalls.

There is an event in Pickering on 14 October.

Members were invited to submit any ideas for this year's events which will be considered by the planning committee during their preparations. This group still has to be established.

## **13. Volunteer Gardeners**

Meet alternate Wednesdays in all weathers. A photo will be taken for the next newsletter.

Update given on clearing and dead heading of rhododendrons.

Betty requested cards to hand out to the public. Neil commented that he had already provided these.

A work plan has been agreed for the coming months.

A plan will be considered for works required around OMWPRB.

**14. Jubilee Tree** – pending.

## **15. Any Other Business**

Query re dogs on leads. Noted that the by-laws are on HBC website.

## **16. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.

AGM will be a Thursday in March (before Easter)