



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



President: Martin Fish

**Minutes of General Meeting held at St Peter's Church on Thursday 13 November 2014**

**Present:** Jane Blayney (Chairman), Anne Grange, Tony Sissons, Brenda Exall, Liz Chidlow, Jon Collins, Simon Collier, Paula Collier, Neil Hind, Anne Broadbent, Peter Blayney

**Apologies:** Jenny Travena, Helen McCallum, Simon Roberts, Jim Clark, Patrick Kilburn, Robert Grange, Kim Wilson, Joyce Peachman, Trish McLaughlin, Barbara Stone

**Minutes of last meeting:** These were approved subject to the substitution of the word "paths" for the words "Sensory Garden" in the note on the Peat Garden.

**Matters arising:** None.

**Report from HBC:** Following a move by Harrogate Mumblers and Grumblers **JB** advised that HBC had put out a questionnaire on their website the results of which should be known on 14 November as to the public's views on smoking in children's playgrounds. **PK** had advised that banning notices could be put up but a ban was unenforceable and would rely on goodwill and peer pressure. The pressure group wish to promote the issue nationally.

A number of street lights were not working in the Valley Gardens. Mike Middleton is looking into the situation.

**Old Magnesia Well Pump Room:** **JC** and **PB** updated the meeting on internal developments. Some of the panelling had been replaced, a wooden floor and a bench had been constructed, the interior painted and the floor and bench stained. A wooden plinth was awaited as was the completion of the electrics/lighting. **JB** reported on a meeting with Tom Holleman, **LC** and Malcolm Neesam in furtherance of the design and content of the internal and external noticeboards. Ideas were evolving. Advice had been received that the damaged trellis on the covered seat would be replaced on 22 November.

**Peat Garden:** **LC** reported that 8,000 bulbs comprising eighteen different species had been planted with the help of 60 pupils from Western School. Grateful thanks were expressed to them and also particularly to **SC** and **PC** for their support for this event. Thought was being given to what to plant in the western "woodland area". Paving round both the chalybeate and the magnesia wellheads had been installed as had a path from the latter to the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room. In order to accommodate plantings this autumn FOVG had paid for tree works and these had now been completed. The contents of the display boards were under consideration. **TS** proposed a vote of thanks to **LC**, **JT** and **JB** for their hard work planting the bulbs.

**1940s Open Day:** **JB** reported that the Sun Pavilion had been booked at a cost of £495. A deposit of £135 had been paid. A request that HBC waive the charge had been made in view of FOVG's project and the contribution made by FOVG volunteer gardeners; but this had been ungraciously turned down. One stall had been booked and paid for and the Pinewoods Conservation Group had requested a stall. Approaches to further stallholders were being made.

**Treasurer's report:** **AG** reported a bank balance of £21,055. £471 was raised over Heritage Open Days. Membership fees had raised £606 so far this year. A grant of £3,000 had been received from the Arts and Heritage Fund and a promise made for £1,000 towards bulbs, part of which had been spent. £450 had been promised by the Harry Bolland Trust for a ramp. As this had cost considerably less permission had been granted for it to go towards information boards. £237 from Commuted Sums would be added to this. £47,000 had been paid out. It was now estimated that £18,000 would be required for further internal work and £5,000 for information display boards; therefore a further £5,000 may be needed.

**Membership Secretary's report:** **JC** advised that all present were up-to-date with their subscriptions and that there were 162 members on the books. It was clear that a number of others had not paid recently and those members not on email who had not paid since October 2013 would not receive Albatross.

**Future events:** 22 November Bag Packing at ASDA. Volunteers needed.

**ADDENDUM 26 November 3.00pm St Peter's Church, TREE DECORATION. Come along, decorate, and vote for the FOVG tree. Contact Jane on 01423 505231.**

12 March 2015 Annual General Meeting

28 June 2015 1940s Open Day

**Any other business:** **PB** will provide **JC** with a list of furnishing items still required for the inside of the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room for distribution to the membership.

There then followed an excellent talk kindly given by Mike Bevington on "A Walk Round Fountains Abbey", following which thanks were given by **JB**.

**Next Meeting:** This will be the Annual General Meeting on 12 March 2015. Venue to be advised.