



Friends of Valley Gardens

Harrogate's Award-Winning Park

President: Martin Fish

Minutes of the meeting held 19 January 2012

Present: J Blayney, N Hughes, H McCallum, P Blayney, M Fish, P Kilburn, T Sissons, B Stone, B Bentley, M Neesam, S Clarke, S Wood, A Broadbent, J Peachman, P Walmsley, D Evans, B Exall, L Bright-McCallum, J Clark, J Gardner, R Dobson, J Cain, G Wade, A Grainger, S Collier, P Collier, J Ryan, M Birkenshaw, C Stewart

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed those present and also our President, Martin Fish, and James Cain, Managing Director of Harrogate Spring Water.

2. Apologies for Absence

J Kempton, Hales Bar, J Allen, E Mann, J Travena, M Smith, J Luery, B Nash, L Stretton, P Stretton, B Boden

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 17 November 2011 – approved and signed as accurate.

4. Matters Arising

Minute

4 (9.1) Totaliser - noted that timber has been obtained, figures are being prepared.

4 (10) Gardening Volunteer Pack – This will be presented to HBC Management Team during February with a launch date during April.

5. Police Report – No report received. Noted that, should there be any significant issues then the Police will attend.

6.2 Fish and Chip Night – noted that this was a success and raised £325.00. Some members present commented that the food was cold upon arrival and it was noted that this may have been due to a problem with the taxi booked, not picking the food up on time. Also confirmed that Drake's on Knaresborough Road were the supplier as last year.

6.3 Santa's Grotto – this had been a success with 78 children visiting. Noted that other potential attendees had arrived after the event. For 2012 this event will be held over two weekends on both Saturday and Sunday. Good press coverage and photographs had been received.

6.4 Marks and Spencer Bag Packing - £720 was raised for FOVG with an additional £180 (20% of the collection) to M & S charity, Children's Heart Surgery. It is proposed that further bag packing will take place at Easter and Christmas 2012. Thanks were conveyed to all who helped. Comment was made that members of the public were unaware that 20% of their donations were not being attributed to FOVG but the charity was advertised on some tills.

14. Question from the Community – this member of the public has been invited on two occasions to attend a meeting, or to have concerns raised on his behalf about park opening times and drinking in the park. However, no response has been received so this query will be removed from the agenda.

15. Photo of the Month – thanks to J Allen for providing a number of photos taken within the park. These will be considered for inclusion of some on the website.

5. Events Update

5.1 40's Day

Noted that a working party is meeting on a regular basis to progress planning for this event to be held on Sunday 10 June, 11 am – 5 pm. S Roberts is instrumental in the planning process and is liaising with his contacts to attract re-enactment groups and military vehicles. Invitation letters and booking forms are to be sent out to contacts within the next few weeks. Prices for stalls have been increased to: commercial £40, non-commercial £10. It was noted that non-commercial stall holders had not been charged a fee last year but some had made considerable profits. It was reported that the Sun Pavilion building has been hired at a cost of £425 for indoor stall holders. Also, the colonnades and area surrounding the bandstand will be utilized. All activities will be located and compacted into a more accessible space, mostly around the bandstand area. The bandstand is available throughout the day and various groups are being scheduled to take part, including: theatre groups, schools, fashion shows, and a 40's sweetheart act. There is a suggestion that the theatre group re-enact the 1948 Olympics.

Members are welcome to join the working group should they wish to. Please contact a member of the Executive. Anne Grange is willing to join.

6. Treasurer's Report

To date the bank balance is £10,324.00. Bank statement for January is pending. £2,200 has been raised towards the rebuilding of the fort in the play area and these monies will now be transferred to HBC and the holding account closed.

7. Membership Update

26 members from 106 have renewed for 2012, which include 2 organisations. Standing order payments cannot be verified as the January statement from the bank has not yet been issued. It was noted that some members have not increased their SO payments as per the new joining fees and these need to be checked. Some previous members have expressed that they do not wish to renew their membership for a variety of reasons. One issue appears to be the inability to assist with events etc. Reassurances were given that, whilst physical assistance is appreciated, this is not always necessary and being a paid supportive member of the group is just as important. Reminders will be sent out during February to those who have not renewed.

8. Old Magnesia Well Pump Room Building

An update was given. It was noted that the working group is currently working with HBC Officers, who are acting as Clerk of Works, regarding proposals for building works. The Vice-Chairman has prepared drawings for internal works which were available for members to view. The plans have been prepared from the gathering of historical information including photographic evidence and include features such as: - wood staining, benching, sink replacement and hand pump, glazing and lighting. All of the plans / proposals have been provided to HBC to consider for applying for planning consent on our behalf..

The Chairman commented that further consideration of the group becoming a registered charity would be required in order to apply to some funding sources. Companies can put their charity donations against tax should the recipient be a registered charity. This will be a decision to be made by the Executive as there will be personal liabilities incurred if the charity runs into debt.

9. Events Calendar

A calendar of events for 2012 has been prepared which includes meeting dates, events, and social evenings. Dates and finer details are to be confirmed. This will also assist with budgeting of income and expenditure. It is proposed that the events during this year will be evaluated at the November general meeting.

10. Report from HBC

10.1 Fort in Play Area

The preferred option has been chosen following consultation and it is proposed that, weather permitting, works will commence mid February with completion in readiness for the Easter school holidays.

10.2 Sports Pavilion and Toilet Plans

The planning application will be considered next week. A slight alteration has been necessary due to the location of an electrical cable. Planning notices will be placed as required. The build will take approximately 10 weeks for completion summer 2012. A section of the play area will be closed but access to existing play equipment will remain.

10.3 Pinewoods

Discussions have taken place with the Director of RHS and an invitation is extended to all who have written to them or the media to attend a meeting on 21 February in the Bramall Centre at Harlow Carr Gardens. (Addendum: Actually some have written but not yet invited including self and others). The Chairman reported that a statement has been requested from the Pinewoods regarding their position on the lease plans. This statement can then be forwarded to the membership. (To date 25.1.12 this has not been received).

11. Questions from the Community

11.1 Enquiry regarding the holding of an event in Valley Gardens – this has been referred to HBC Events Officer.

12. Any Other Business The post of secretary comes up for re-election and nomination forms can be obtained from Sue Clarke and must be returned at least ten days before the AGM.

12.1 Events in Valley Gardens

A query was raised as to how we are aware of events taking place. It was confirmed that the Events Officer has provided a full list of current events and their dates/times.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 5 April 2012, 7.30 pm, Harlow Hill Club. This will be the AGM followed by the General Meeting.

Helen McCallum
FOVG Secretary