

**FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS, HARROGATE**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in the Brostoff Community Centre,**  
**St Peter's Church, Harrogate on Thursday 16 March 2017**

**Present:** Jane Blayney (Chairman), Peter Blayney, Anne Grange, Robert Grange, David Mason, Ann Beeby, Laura Buckley, Michael Harrison, Andrew Jordan, Richard Dobson, Jim Clark, Paula Collier, Simon Collier, Sue Wood, Patrick Kilburn, Brian Dunsby, Beryl Dunsby, Peter Lilley, Liz Chidlow, Barbara Stone, Malcolm Neesam.

**Apologies:** Pat and Bob Nash, Jon Iddon, Steve Watkinson, Martin Fish, Henry Pankhurst, Eleanor and Nigel McClea, Jenny Travena, Simon Roberts.

**Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed all commenting on the good turn-out.

**Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting:** These were accepted as a correct record.

**Matters arising:** None, not covered elsewhere.

**Officers' reports:** All reports had been circulated to members.

- a. The Chairman thanked all concerned for their hard work over the last year.
- b. Membership currently stood at 101.
- c. Treasurer. The annual accounts (attached) were available.

**Projects reports:** a. Japanese Garden. Early in the New Year £89,200 had been promised by Heritage Lottery Fund, which, together with £4,000 from FOVG funds, would be sufficient to see the project through. A gift of a lantern had been promised by the Harrogate Flower Club. Work had started.

b. King Edward VII Memorial Gate. A generous grant of £10,000 from the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation had brought to £30,000 the monies available towards the total of £60,000 needed to complete the project. Grants were being applied for and it was hoped to restore the gates themselves and display them ahead of the start of work.

c. The Old Magnesia Well Pump Room was now complete and opening two days a month. Work on the Peat Garden was on-going.

**Parks & Environmental Services (HBC):** Patrick Kilburn thanked FOVG for the difference made by the efforts of members and understood both the satisfaction and the passion felt. Valley Gardens is visited by 3 million people a year and it was gratifying that FOVG had not withered on the vine as do so many organisations. There were legal obligations and frustrations at times and the Street Food Festival had provided a pleasant experience for 100,000 people. Granted there were concerns over litter and damage to grass but these were capable of being managed. The event would be repeated next August when an attendance of up to 140,000 was expected. Michael Harrison assured the meeting that, even though the bid to extend the limit on the number of days in the year when events can be held on the Stray had been

unsuccessful, there would be no pressure to increase events in the Valley Gardens as a result. He stressed the Valley Gardens are ornamental gardens and HBC routinely turn down requests for events that would clearly be unsuitable. Patrick Kilburn was content in principle for decoration to the bandstand gates. Electricity would be installed soon. It was in his gift to decide on the colour of the gates and railings. The hammer for the Pou Whenua had been found and would be installed soon. The vandalised woodwork on the sheltered seating unit would not be replaced. Concern over vandalism generally was expressed as were dogs running amok without their owners attached.

**Election of Trustees and Officers:** The following nominations had been received for Trustee:

Jim Clark, Liz Chidlow, Anne Grange, Peter Blayney, Jane Blayney. All had been proposed and seconded. Meeting in favour, nem. con.

Nominated Chairman: Jane Blayney. Proposed Peter Blayney, seconded Anne Grange.

Nominated Treasurer: Anne Grange. Proposed Peter Blayney, seconded Jane Blayney.

Nominated Secretary: Peter Blayney. Proposed Anne Grange, seconded Jane Blayney.

Nominated Volunteer Gardeners Co-ordinator: Liz Chidlow. Proposed Peter Blayney, seconded Jane Blayney.

Nominated Marketing/Publicity Officers: Jon Iddon and Stephen Watkinson .  
Proposed Ann Beeby, seconded Liz Chidlow.

Acting Membership Officers: Anne Grange and Peter Blayney.

Meeting in favour of all nominated Officers, nem.con.

Vice Chairman, Young Persons' Representative, Membership Officer. No Nominations received.

**Any other business:** Anne Grange appealed for more prizes and volunteers to assist with the Tombola and in the Old Magnesia Well Pump Room on the 1940s Open Day. Jane Blayney appealed for more help on the cake stall and in the Information Tent. Suggestions for the 1940s Open Day included charging admission, which was thought beyond FOVG's capability; and offering a small sheet with a programme on one side and a map on the other when approaching visitors with a collecting bucket.

**Date of next Annual General Meeting:** Saturday 3 March 2018 at 10.00 am in the Jubilee Room, Bramall Centre, Harlow Carr.

The next General Meeting will be held on 21 October at 10.00 am, same venue.

**There followed a highly informative and fascinating talk by Malcolm Neesam on "The Story of Harrogate's Parks and Gardens", after which the Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Friends.**

**P J Blayney: Secretary**

**J E Blayney: Chairman**