



Friends of Valley Gardens

Harrogate's Award-Winning Park

Minutes of the Meeting held 28 July 2010

(formal approval will be given at the meeting scheduled for 7 October 2010, Please send any comments to helenm534@aol.com)

This was a brief update meeting followed by a walk around the Valley Gardens

Present: J Blayney, H McCallum, D Smeaton, M Smeaton, S Boden, A Jordan, S Wood, C Davies, C Bowes, J Clarke, T Sissons, J Hall, A Henson, R Henson, P Kilburn, H Elshaw, S MacKenzie

1. **Apologies for absence** – T Holleman, M Holleman, D MacKenzie, J Cater, M Price, G Charlton, M Mann, M Collier, P Collier, Peter Blayney
2. **Minutes of the meeting held 27 May 2010** – spelling errors corrected and signed as an accurate record.
3. **Matters arising and updates**
 - 3.1 Sunday 8 August 2 – 5 pm – Open Garden courtesy of Pat Clarke. Members requested to assist with duties and baking. All proceeds to the Old Magnesia Well Project.
 - 3.2 Big Picnic 18 July . Gazebo purchased to use at promotional events rather than paying hire costs. Member support was good and it was a fun day. Our mission was promoted widely and new members recruited. A donation was given to Harrogate District Hospital Friends. They were raising funds for the High Dependency Unit.
 - 3.3 Play Day 4 August. Again, member assistance required to promote our presence. Funds raised will go to the Mayors Charity Fund.
 - 3.4 FOVG attended the Anglo/American Golf Tournament and netted a profit of £100.
 - 3.5 FOVG being established as a Limited Company with Limited Liability is still under review. For charity registration we need to have minimum of £5000 in the bank which has not yet been achieved.
 - 3.6 Woodland Walk Sub- Committee – report is pending from Tom Holleman and Tony Sissons (Project leader) on progress to date. It was noted that the thinning out of the trees and replanting would enhance views of the gardens. This work would be carried out in sections, commencing at the Magnesia Well Cafe.
 - 3.7 Old Magnesia Well Project – fund raising events are underway and Jane Blayney is leading on this project and recruiting a team.
 - 3.8 Inactive members – the list of members is exhaustive. However, many of these are as a result of previous meeting attendance and are inactive. Contact has been made to ascertain their continued interest but little response has been received.
 - 3.9 FOVG leaflets – Enid Taylor have sponsored 200 free leaflets. A further order has been placed and these are to be handed out at promotional events. These leaflets FOVG would fund.

- 3.10 Volunteer help – thanks were given to Sheila and Peter Leigh, Jim Clarke, Heather (?), Desmond and Mary Smeaton, Pat Clarke, Helen McCallum, Jane and Peter Blayney for their support at events.
- 3.11 Display Boards – currently being borrowed to display photographs and information.
- 3.12 Membership cards - completed for paid members to date and distributed.
- 3.13 Weeding Volunteers required for the In Bloom judging which takes place on 10 August. Contact Jane for further details.
- 3.14 Valley Gardens History Lecture – Malcolm Neesam has kindly offered to provide a lecture free of charge. A free venue is required and Helen suggested Harlow Hill Club which is free to her as a member.
- 3.15 Nominations for President – two have been received to date, Alan Titchmarsh and Matthew Wilson former curator of Harlow Carr. Update to be given at next meeting. It was noted that only paid members Have a vote.
- 3.16 Jenny Hall Soroptomists have £500 which they wish to donate for planting in the Japanese Garden. The Soroptomists have a partnership with a town in Japan.
- 3.17 Press release and regular slot in the Harrogate Advertiser. This is still pending, Helen to chase.
- 3.18 No football signs have been ordered by P Kilburn.
- 3.19 Green Park Entrance - a request has been placed for removal of the existing pillar . Flower pots cannot be considered due to maintenance issues. There have been suggestions that this entrance should be given a new name and D Smeaton suggested “Willis Entrance”. It was noted that Mr Chipchase was first Head Gardener 1887 and this could be an alternative name?
- 3.20 Friends of Roundhay Park – FOVG are now members.
- 3.21 Internet banking is now established.
- 3.22 Briefing Information Pack – still required for volunteer helpers at events.
- 3.23 Replacement of Band Stand gates – HBC Development Services have this in had, a design is pending. P Kilburn to check on progress.
- 3.24 Crocus Planting – the Rotary Club have plans in place for planting at the main entrance. Further details to follow.
4. Any Other Business
- 4.1 Marketing of Valley Garden Open Events – these need to be advertised more clearly and details of who is benefiting from them. There is a general thought with the public that HBC reap financial benefits which is not the case.
- 4.2 Rubbish – HBC are working with their Head of Environmental Services to assess the best way to deal with litter, i.e. locations / sizes of bins.
- 4.3 Holes in Footpaths – these are a result of drainage and infrastructure issues.
5. Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 7 October 2010 at 7 pm. PLEASE NOTE VENUE

HARLOW HILL CLUB, COLLEGE STREET (off Otley Road)

Helen McCallum – Secretary
Jane Blayney – Vice - Chair

The meeting closed and was continued with a walk around the Valley Gardens led by P Kilburn. The following members joined us for the walk: B Bentley, M Bruce, P Clarke, U Knowles, T Knowles

P Kilburn gave a very informative talk as we walked around the Gardens. Areas highlighted included:-

- Woodland Walk
- History of Bogs Field
- Spring Wells
- Boating Pool
- Japanese Garden
- Improvements planned to toilets
- Skate Park
- Old Magnesia Well
- Plans to convert parks building into staff rest room
- Opening up of Band Stand at rear and replacement of gate
- Renovation of Sun Parlours and Winter Gardens

Thanks were conveyed to Patrick for his excellent tour and the information provided.