



Friends of Valley Gardens

Harrogate's Award-Winning Park

Minutes of the meeting held 25 November 2010

Present: T Holleman, P Kilburn, H McCallum, A Jordan, S MacKenzie, S Leigh, P Leigh, D Edwards, M Holleman, D Moorhouse, T Sissons, J Gardner, J Jakes, T McLaughlin, L Bright-McCallum, S Wood, J Clark

1. **Welcome** to members present and to T McLaughlin representing HBC.
2. **Apologies for absence**

J Luery, C Stewart, M Mann, R Johnston, J Blayney, P Blayney, S Bagnell, P Bagnell, S Collier, P Collier
3. **Minutes of the meeting held 7 October 2010** – apologies of G McCormick recorded and confirmed as an accurate record.
4. **Matters arising** – none that were not major agenda items.
5. **Report and updates from the Chair**
 - 5.1 **Status of pathway lights** – the number of lights not operating is a major concern. The lights not working in the New Zealand Garden and Toilet area are due to a fault which requires new underground wiring. A programme to address this is in hand.
 - 5.2 **Toilet Signs** – there is a large sign on the toilet blocks. Suggested that silhouette signs (as used at the library) are considered, and also finger pointing posts. New signs should be situated at the Cornwall Road entrance near the NZ gardens, at the Sun Pavilion, and at the toilets themselves. The existing sign near the Games in Parks office needs to be more prominent.
 - 5.3 **Updated orientation maps** – shared costs between FOVG and HBC discussed and that skate park to be included if planning is granted. Costs to be obtained. Any new signs should contain a reference to FOVG.
 - 5.4 **Police contact number to be added to “No Football Signs” in Sun Pal ours.** It was considered that these may aggravate users. However, it was suggested that the Police contact details be added to main signs at the entrances to the gardens. Colton Signs in Starbeck can provide transfers to add.
 - 5.5 **Revised Pamphlet** – a standing order mandate form has been added, and emphasis has been given to the Old Magnesia Well project.
 - 5.6 **Briefing / Information Packs** – volunteer helpers have requested packs so that they may advise park users and that we are all saying the same. These are pending.
 - 5.7 **Current Membership** – 73 paid members. Membership fees will be due again in January and members are requested to use the Standing Order facility which reduces administrative costs.

6. **Report and updates from Harrogate Borough Council**

- 6.1 **Pathway Lights** – 27 – 33 are not working, work is programmed to repair. Other general repairs have been reported. TH to send details of all light positions to TM.
- 6.2 **Skate/BMX Park** – Funds are secure and online consultation is taking place. 201 comments had been received, 200 of which were in favour. 4 negatives in writing and 12 supporting. The Planning Committee will consider on 6 January and then a user group will be formed to progress operation of the park if approved.
- 6.3 **Gates at Bandstand** – The bandstand has suffered from vandalism, graffiti, and damage due to ball game and fires. A design has been approved for new gates and an order is to be placed with construction to commence during December. Noted that the gates have to be functional and therefore will be folding and on wheels.
- 6.4 **Repairs to Sun Parlour ceilings** – TM is meeting with Building Management Team and Harrogate Pest Control for advice and options. It was suggested that reinforced fibre glass or alternative materials be considered. No further damage reports have been made to the Police.
- 6.5 **Graffiti clean up** – work has been undertaken and TM will look at a further programme to fully repaint by mid April. The contractor employed had used the incorrect paint for the job. Concern that he should not be paid if he did not meet contractual requirements. The door to the cellar is pending. HBC acted quickly but the work was not satisfactory. Development Services have agreed that the damage should be resolved and will endeavor to find an acceptable solution to prevent further damage but that is visually acceptable.
- 6.6 **Removal of Maze** – no income has been received. It was agreed the maze be removed.
- 6.7 **Removal of Pillar at Green Park Entrance** – A quote of £930 has been received. Suggested that this work be included within the Skate Park contractor contract?
- 6.8 **Review of locations and sizes of litter bins** – pending.

7. **Treasurers Report**

Bank balance currently at £1256. £868 for the Well project, £388 general from membership payments. £1K Heritage funding due as well as £2K from Menwith Hill. A bid to NYCC Community Grant of £1K is pending.

8. **Easy Fundraising**

This is a shopping directory listing online stores who will donate 15% of your purchase to FOVG when you shop using FOVG easyfundraising site. Members were directed to the FOVG website to sponsor the site as a vendor or member of FOVG. You can register free at <http://valleygardens.easysearch.org.uk> and use the links from this page to take you to your preferred retailer. Any queries regarding this system can be made to the Tom Holleman.

9. **Christmas Wreath Fundraising Project**

D Edwards will make wreaths and raise funds for the group by donating 50% of sales. Sales will take place in the gardens in the run up to Christmas.

10. **Establishment of Gardening Volunteer Group**

Anyone willing to help in the gardens please submit details to HBC who are finalizing their policy on volunteers. Agreed that a list of volunteers should be created then progressed according to their availability and the needs of the gardens. TM will send a draft policy and then TH will progress.

11. **Nomination of President**

To be considered at next meeting.

12. **Speakers at FOVG meetings**

Agreed that speakers should be scheduled 3 times per year. S Leigh and A Jordan agreed to establish a list of relevant speakers .

13. **Old Magnesia Well Pump Room**

£3k in grant money is secure. The consultation brief will cost £3650 which will include concept, ideas, details and interpretation. There are sufficient funds to move this forward and it was agreed to execute the contract which demonstrates our commitment and ownership to this project.

14. **Questions from the Community**

14.1 Why is the Sun Pavilion so expensive to hire?

The rates are set by Harrogate International Centre, not HBC who have no control over the rates.

15. **Any Other Business**

15.1 Toilets – update on new toilet block requested.

16. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 18 January 2011, 7 pm, Harlow Hill Club