



Friends of Valley Gardens

Harrogate's Award-Winning Park

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 18 January 2011

Present: T Holleman, J Blayney, H McCallum, T Sissons, M Holleman, A Jordan, P Kilburn, P Blayney, P Stratton, S MacKenzie, Y Elvin, D Smeaton, M Smeaton, R Dobson, J Jakes, M Kay, S Wood, S Collier, P Collier, J Clark, P Mitchell, K Mitchell, B Bentley, N Hughes, J Davey, L Bright-McCallum

1. Welcome to members

Reported that minutes will be distributed 7 working days after the meeting together with a skeleton agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

S Leigh, P Leigh, J Gardner, D Edwards, L Stratton, B Bowden, S Whittam,

3. Minutes of the meeting held 25 November 2011

Noted that P Kilburn was not present as listed, and apologies had been received from B Bentley. With those amendments the minutes were confirmed and signed as accurate.

4. Matters arising (that were not agenda items)

Minute 5.4 Police signs with contact telephone numbers on main entrance signs
P Kilburn to investigate if these can be executed.

Minute 5.6 Volunteer Information Packs – T Holleman to action

Minute 6.8 Litter Bins are still pending. FOVG are required to identify their priorities of tasks required by HBC. A walk around will take place with the gardeners to identify where the problems occur. Noted that Lime Walk and the toilet area could be problematic.

Minute 13 Old Magnesia Pump Room – the consultation costs are now £4,500 which include a topographical survey.

5. Report and Updates from the Chairman

5.1 Christmas Decorations

£345 was raised. Thanks to B Bentley, D Edwards, M Holleman, S MacKenzie for the preparation and selling of Christmas wreaths. A gift will be presented to D Edwards for use of her home in the preparation works.

5.2 Sun Parlour ceilings - Thanks to HBC for repairs to the ceilings and the gritting of pathways.

5.3 Status of Old Magnesia Well Project

An application for a grant has been made to NYCC Area Committee. Their decision has been deferred pending a reapplication. Any volunteers who wish to join the Working Party are welcome. Noted that HBC Officer, M Coston, is progressing works as requested.

5.4 Current Membership

93 paid members (some family subscriptions). Renewal membership required and members are encouraged to pay by standing order, which reduces administrative costs. Noted that members are not required to play an active role, but to support through general interest. Any members who joined in December 2010 will not be required to renew membership 2011.

5.5 Hand Delivery vs. Postage

Members were requested to help by delivering agendas, minutes etc in their areas which would reduce postage costs. The Secretary will prepare a map of delivery areas. If any member is willing to help with this, please contact Helen McCallum.

5.6 2011 Membership payments – see 5.4 above

5.7 Nominations for Officer Positions

The positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Parent Rep and Youth rep are due for renewal at the AGM in March. The position of Chairman is available due to personal circumstances of the current Chair. Nomination forms will be sent out with the minutes

6. Report and Updates from HBC

6.1 Skate/BMX Park

Planning approval was approved 6 January 2011. Discussions have taken place with contractors and it is hoped they will be on site towards the end of February. CDM consultants have been appointed. Depending on the weather, the build period is expected to be 8/9 weeks. A user group has been established on Facebook for users and interested parties. When construction is completed, it is hoped to hold an open event but no details are in place. HBC are encouraging users to take the lead on this with support from HBC and FOVG.

6.2 Gates at Bandstand

The gates are currently being manufactured by Japs Engineering and are due to be installed by late February 2011.

6.3 Repair of Lights (7)

A new electrical service is required to 5 out of the 7 lights. PK has emailed the persons who deals with lighting on 7 January 2011, but has received no response. He will pursue this and respond to FOVG Secretary if and when a response is received. Regarding the 5 lights that need a new service, Parks staff have started excavated the trench. This work should have been completed or should be in the process of being completed. Repairs to the remaining 2 lights have been passed to Development Services to deal with.

6.4 Establishment of Rules for Gardening Volunteer Group

A draft report has been written but some amendments are required. No further progress has been made due to other work commitments. Anyone wishing to be a volunteer gardener please contacts the Secretary who will pass on your details.

6.5 New Toilet Signs

It was agreed that these would be beneficial but again, they need to be considered with other priorities. The Chair confirmed that he had sent details of where these would be best located. There is an issue of availability of resources to fund this requirement if considered a priority.

6.6 The Maze

This has now been removed. A question was raised regarding income received from the Frisbee facility and this was reported as £1200

6.7 Sun Parlour Ceilings

Quotes are currently being sought for the provision and installation of netting. A sample was provided to examine and noted that this will be unobtrusive to the eye.

6.8 Repainting of Sun Parlour

Full refurbishment will be undertaken once the netting has been installed. HBC will continue to deal with areas where graffiti was covered. The situation is currently considered to be satisfactory.

6.9 Sun Pavilion Door Graffiti

No further work will be undertaken until refurbishment of the Sun Parlours is complete at which point the door will be repainted.

6.10 New Toilet Block at Play Area

This is on hold due to the current financial situation and reeducations in funding from central government.

7. Treasurers Report

At December 2010 the balance was £3,033. A grant from Menwith Hill of £2000 has been received and a further £1000 is outstanding from the Arts and Heritage Fund, plus our application to the NYCC Area Committee. New memberships have been received and renewed memberships for 2011 will add to funds. Priority is to fund the Old Magnesia Well project.

8. Removal of Pillar at Green Park Entrance

A proposal was made that FOVG fund 50% of the cost, i.e. £450, if HBC will fund the remainder. This was approved unanimously. It was agreed that the crown should be retained and used in the Old Magnesia Well project with advice from the architect in their design. The issue of the Skate Park Contractor removing the pillar within their contract was not considered viable.

9. Upcoming Events

A list of events was presented.

For Gardeners Question Time, members were encouraged to send questions in advance to Jane Blayney or Helen McCallum.

40's Day is progressing with a tea dance venue yet to be sourced. Any helpers welcome to further this event.

Quintessential have agreed to provide a musical evening on 16 July and it is hoped this will be held at Pannal Church Hall. Tickets will be priced at £8. Further details to follow

10. FOVG President

Due to time constraints, this item is deferred.

11. Police Report

Attempted break in at ice cream area of the Magnesia Well Cafe. A window was broken. Damage has been noted to vehicles in the vicinity of the Valley Gardens, but not in the Gardens.

12. Questions from the Community

12.1 Additional Features in Play Area (Bench, Tree, Picnic Table)

There are several trees in the play area and these provide shade. Further trees would obscure CCTV footage. Happy to provide bench and picnic tables if funds become available.

12.2 Mud in Play area (letter in Harrogate Advertiser)

It is disappointing that the complainant went to local media before consulting HBC or FOVG. If they had consulted either party then they would have been informed that it is part of the Skate Park works to place a new drain to stop the surplus water running into the play area. The winter has also been very wet.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Constitution

Proposed changes to the constitution will be sent out prior to the AGM. A vote will take place at the AGM.

13.2 Auditor

According to our Constitution we must elect an independent person to audit our accounts. It was agreed that the Officers could progress this.

13.3 Photo of the Month

Proposed and agreed that we have a "photo of the month" on the website. Photos should be submitted to the Chairman.

13.4 Bio-diversity garden

It was suggested that an area adjacent to Ebor Rise could be made bio-diversity friendly by planting native wild plants to attract bees and butterflies. PK reported that talks were in place to create an area t the sign post garden near the Magnesia Well Café this spring/summer using high nectar and pollen plants. When HBC defines the rules for a gardening group in Valley Gardens, this concept for Ebor Rise will be revisited. Y Elvin offered to be involved with these bio diversity projects.

13.5 Harlow Carr Floral Trail

Website is www.rhs.org.uk/harlowcarr

13.6 Woodland Walk Project

The survey of residents in the area adjacent to this proposed project have been surveyed by their local Councilor and the results have been handed to the Vice-Chairman for analysis. A report will be provided at the next general meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting

AGM, followed by general business, 17 March 2011 at Harlow Hill Club

Helen McCallum (Secretary)
(01423) 507208
Helenm534@aol.com

Addendum to minutes of meeting held 18 January 2011

Minute 6.3

It was reported at the meeting that a new electrical service is required to 5 out of the 7 lights. PK has now received a response from the officer who deals with lighting.

Repairs to all 7 of the ights should be completed by the end of January. Actual trenching will commence next week (wc 23 January 2011)

Helen McCallum
Secretary