



# *Friends of Valley Gardens*

## **Harrogate's Award-Winning Park**

### **Minutes of the AGM held 17 March 2011**

Present: T Holleman, M Holleman, D Edwards, A Jones, J Blayney, H McCallum, L Bright-McCallum, P Stretton, L Stretton, T Sissons, P Kilburn, N Hughes, R Henson, A Henson, R Dobson, J Clark, J Jakes, C Stewart, S Wood, S Collier, P Collier, C Bowes, R Bowes, B Bentley

1. **Members were welcomed**

2. **Apologies for absence** – M Mann, T Sissons, S Leigh, P Leigh, Mr Bagnall, Mrs Bagnall, J Gardner, B Boden

3. **Minutes of the previous AGM** – as this was our first AGM there were no minutes.

4. **Matters Arising** – none

5. **Annual Report from the Chair**

The Chair reported on achievements over the past year, which included various fund raising events. The total raised so far from these and grant applications being in excess of £6,500. He also reported on close working relationships with HBC which have resulted in many issues being resolved. The Chair thanked all who have helped (those present and absent) to form and support FOVG and who continue to be key to its successful future. Special thanks were given to the Committee who have worked on all activities throughout the year. Thanks were also given to the Valley Gardens Garden team for their daily commitment to the park.

6. **Annual Report from the Treasurer**

Income currently stands (financial year end) at £4,391 with an additional £4,000 pending. This includes contributions totaling £3,000 from Cllrs D MacKenzie, J Clark, and J Marshall, and a £1,000 grant from the HBC Arts and Heritage Fund.

Expenses stand at £1,211

Net Surplus at the year end £3,180

Thanks were conveyed to Cook Trotter Ltd for preparing and auditing the accounts and it was agreed that they be reappointed for the forthcoming year.

Members, new and old, were encouraged to pay membership by standing order to reduce administration costs

7. **Proposed Changes to the Constitution**

The proposed change at the end of section 5 "In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair shall assume the Chair's responsibilities" were agreed.

8. **Election of Officers**

The Chair stepped down and the Secretary continued the business of the meeting.

#### **Chairman**

One nomination, Jane Blayney, received. No other nominations offered. Nominated by H McCallum, seconded by J Clark. All in favour.

The newly appointed Chair then continued the business of the meeting.

### **Vice – Chairman**

One nomination, Neil Hughes, received. No other nominations offered.  
Nominated by J Blayney, seconded by P Blayney. All in favour.

### **Treasurer**

One nomination, J Clark, received. No other nominations offered.  
Nominated by J Blayney, seconded by H McCallum. All in favour.

### **Parent Rep**

One temporary nomination, H McCallum, received. No other nominations offered.  
Nominated by J Blayney, seconded by N Hughes. All in favour

### **Youth Rep**

No nominations received

### **9. To consider extending the Executive Committee by 4 members**

A proposal was made to extend the Executive Committee by 4 members to act as contacts /consultants for specific projects and tasks. Any member willing to be considered to contact the Chairman and / or Secretary. T Sissons offered to assist and this was agreed. An open invitation is extended to all members. Interested members would be requested to attend pre meetings and planning meetings. It was agreed that the Group could co-opt as and when necessary.

The AGM ended with a presentation to the exiting Chairman and a vote of thanks for all his work.

Helen McCallum  
FOVG Secretary

# FOVG General Meeting

## Minutes of the Meeting held 17 March 2011

### 1. Minutes of the meeting held 18 January 2011

Confirmed and signed as an accurate record

### 2. Matters Arising

**Membership** – outstanding memberships to be pursued by the Secretary.

**Hand deliveries vs. postage** – a map of delivery areas to be prepared and volunteers required to hand deliver thus saving on postage costs.

**Police Report** – PCSO J Jakes reported that no criminal damage had been reported. The last few months had been quiet in general.

**Litter Bins** – T Holleman has consulted with HBC workers and it is generally felt that all those in situation are necessary. The bin on Lime Tree Walk needs to be replaced which would cost £400.

### 3. Report on Candidates for President

T Holleman gave a resume on nominations of Alan Titchmarsh, Prince Charles and Lord Willis.  
J Blayney gave a resume on nominations of Martin Fish and Matthew Wilson.

Members present voted and agreed that Martin Fish be appointed as President for the group. J Blayney will write to confirm.

### 4. Events Update

An update was given on forthcoming events, including the Mike Bevington Lecture, Tea Dance, and 40's Day.

Thanks were given to Mike Middleton from HBC for his help in planning events.

It was stressed that the Group need to raise funds and all were encouraged to publicise forthcoming events to increase awareness and income.

### 5. Old Magnesia Well Pump Room

J Blayney reported on progress and members received a tabled paper.

It is proposed that surrounding area is cleared of overgrown and unhealthy vegetation and that this area be replanted. A consultation process is underway with members and local residents on plans and proposals. Responses to J Blayney and / or H McCallum.

HBC requested feedback and ideas which will help the planning process.

Meetings are taking place with NEDL regarding the relocation of the electricity box currently on the rear of the building.

Members were requested to submit any old postcards or memorabilia which will enhance the proposed information centre.

Fund raising events and grant applications were reported on. The importance of supporting fund raising to help raise further funding was stressed. Thanks were given to the membership for support and assistance to date.

### 6. Woodland Walk Project

Only 16 local residents had responded to the survey carried out by Cllr Butterfield. 80% of these expressed concern, mainly about loss of wildlife and habitat and the risk of extra noise and disturbance. It was noted that no plans have been drawn up and when we are ready to pursue this project in more detail, further consultation will take place. It was also proposed and agreed that, at this time, the project should be called "The Rockery Garden Restoration".

7. **Report from Harrogate Borough Council**

7.1 **Skate / BMX Park**

Work has started and is currently on schedule to finish at the end of April. Problems have occurred with the late delivery of concrete which has resulted in the contractors working late into the night to lay the concrete. This has resulted in complaints from residents. The contractors have appointed a new supplier to ensure early delivery.

7.2 **Sun Parlours Repairs and Refurbishment**

Works started on 14 March with a programme of 2 weeks.

7.3 **Gates at Bandstand**

These are now in place.

7.4 **Toilet Block Signs**

These are now in place on the toilets.

7.5 **Establishment of Rules for Gardening Volunteer Group**

A draft report has been written but amendments are required before it goes forward. No further progress has been made due to other work commitments. Formal approval would take 4 – 5 weeks. It was also agreed that the views of the gardeners should be requested. Agreed that FOVG would trial the draft rules to see how they work and what issues may arise.

7.6 **Rubbish Bins**

A new bin for Lime Tree Walk has been sourced and is now installed.

7.7 **Lights**

Two additional lights reported as not operating have now been repaired. One is awaiting parts and works are pending.

7.8 **Update on previous questions from the community**

**Additional features in the Play Area**

Two picnic tables have been ordered and delivery is pending. It is hoped that these will be in place for the start of summer at the latest.

**Mud in Play Area**

With reference to a letter sent to the Harrogate Advertiser, it was noted that the play area is currently closed. Old matting has been lifted and sand put down to help with drainage. Old matting will be re-laid and additional matting added to the worst areas. New turf is to be laid. A consultant has been appointed to draw up a drainage scheme to prevent further run off onto the play area from surrounding works.

**Objectives**

Paul Hervey Brooks Associates have been appointed to advise on bio-diversity works at the signpost bed (outside the Café).

8. **Questions from the Community** - None received.

9. **Any Other Business** - None.

10. **Date of Next Meeting** - 26 May 2011, 7 pm Harlow Hill Club

Helen McCallum  
FOVG Secretary