

MINUTES

THE FRIENDS OF HORSTED VALLEY

Third Annual General Meeting

7 November 2012, St Stephen's Church, Chatham at 8p.m.

Attendees: 27 people attended the meeting.

1. Welcome

Angela Watson welcomed those present and offered a special welcome to Councillors Trevor Clarke and Silvia Griffin, Kim Richards (KWT) David Gutteridge (Medway Messenger), John Jones (MUP&GS Forum), and Georgina Nicollettos (representing Tracey Crouch MP).

2. Apologies for absence

Daniel Gooch	Deborah Rowles
Andrew Birch	Iris Donoghue
Prahba Stoneham	Mrs J Bevan
Jacque Cooper	

3. Adoption of Minutes of AGM held on 27 October 2011

The Minutes had had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by David Carder seconded by William Knott and carried unanimously. The minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising,

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out her report which was accompanied by a short slide presentation.

In response to questions from the floor the Chairman confirmed that a visit to Fort Horsted for FHV members could be considered, but pointed out that the owners (Avondale) may require a fee for this. She also confirmed that data from our periodic flora and fauna surveys of the Valley is properly reported to the appropriate records office. John Jones (MUP&GS Forum) mentioned that the Friends of Great Lines have conducted their own surveys. He congratulated FHV on its achievements to date and invited the Chairman to show-case FHV at a regional Friends event to be held in March 2013.

Diana Attwell expressed concern at the lack of sufficient dog waste and litter bins in the Valley and the need for proper location. The Chairman mentioned that the FHV were already in touch with the Council on these issues.

David Gutteridge mentioned that there are several local sources of funds and support for community Groups including "Community First" (the Luton & Wayfield matched funding scheme), and Dobbies Garden Centre which offers equipment, tools and funding.

Adoption of the Chairman's Report was then proposed by David Carder seconded by William Knott and carried unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of examined Accounts

William Knott presented the examined accounts covering the financial year to 31 August 2012 (copy attached). He explained that part of the credit balance of £346 represents advanced membership fees paid up to end 2016. Answering a question from the floor Charles Thompson explained that a claim for gift aid covering the period October 2011 to 31 December 2012 will be made at the end of this year and annually thereafter. Adoption of the accounts was then proposed by Viv Parker, seconded by Barry Eldridge and carried unanimously. The chairman thanked David Carder for certifying the accounts and for agreeing to carry out the role again next year.

7. Kim Richards, KWT representative

Kim introduced herself and outlined her role and responsibilities as Green Infrastructure Officer at Kent Wildlife Trust. She welcomed the opportunity of working alongside FHV and explained how she could help with matters relating to greenspace preservation or applying for funding. She hoped that FHV would be able to contribute to a case study of Friends Groups which she will be drawing up during the coming year.

8. Election of Management Committee 2012/2013

There being no new nominations the incoming Executive Committee was elected as follows:

ANGELA WATSON (Chairman) - proposed by John Cooper, seconded by Richard Stoneham, agreed unanimously

The following were elected en bloc, proposed by Trevor Clarke seconded by David Carder, agreed unanimously:

CHARLES THOMPSON (Secretary)

WILLIAM KNOTT (Treasurer)

VIV PARKER

BARRY ELDRIDGE

JENNI DAWSON

ANN SOUTHERN

9. Any other business

The following items were raised and discussed:

Signage and interpretation boards in the Valley including the use of the latest technological aids such as mobile tags, action codes and QR codes designed to be scanned by a smartphone.

More publicity for FHV including newspaper articles, web exposure and placing FHV links on other websites. Georgina Nicollettos kindly offered to approach Tracey Crouch regarding an FHV link on her site or a reference to FHV on her Twitter pages

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.20p.m. The next AGM is scheduled for 8 November 2013.