

FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK AGM

Held: Saturday 22 October 2016 at Towneley Hall Lecture Theatre

1	<p>Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introduced the Trustees (Pete Ashton, Pat Colbran, Maureen Frankland and Ronnie Pollard), Chair and Treasurer. She then explained how the Friends raise money to fund events such as the recent Heritage and Woodland Day which attracted a crowd of 6000. Attendees watched Roger Leach's video of this event.</p> <p>Present: Pat Ashton, Pete Ashton, Susan Barker, Andy Buck, Margaret Crane, Pat Colbran, Phil Dykes, Bea Foster, Maureen Frankland, Sean Kerr, Roger Leach, Anne Mason, Mary McNeile, Cynthia Moss, Richard Moss, David Myerscough, John Nuttall, Barbara Nutter, Ronnie Pollard, June Pritchard, Gill Robinson, Ann Salisbury, Janet Smith, Anne Starkie.</p> <p>Apologies: Keith Buchanan, Diane Flynn, Simon Goff, Pat Stringer, Grayson Holden.</p> <p>Maureen asked members to ensure their parking passes were still valid. Two volunteer badges were handed out to new members and all were invited to help with forthcoming events and tasks.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the 2015 AGM Meeting</p> <p>These were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising apart from no contact has been made with local schools re our involvement with their Duke of Edinburgh schemes.</p>	
3	<p>Officers' Reports</p> <p>Trustees Pete Ashton reported that the accounts are healthy and that monies gifted to the Friends boosted our funds which have enabled the refurbishment of the Meeting Room and the purchase of materials for the Small Lime Walk Project.</p> <p><u>Future plans</u> will include the development of the Barwise Play Area, the purchase of a defibrillator and the improvement of the carvings on the Small Holdings Trail using the remainder of the Living Legacy donation.</p> <p>Pete explained that age and fitness are increasingly preventing active involvement in several tasks undertaken by current members and would therefore welcome new volunteers. Pete thanked members for their time and effort with these projects with special mention to Andrew Johnson for his behind the scenes input and to the Chair for her time and enthusiasm.</p> <p>Burnley Borough Council Bea Foster outlined the current rationale of the Council on Burnley's parks. In the light of reduced funding the Council has had to reconsider how best to preserve and maintain their parks. The local Re-Thinking Parks project has been very successful which resulted in coverage on both national and local television which promoted how volunteers could work alongside the Council in the maintenance of parks as funding for this is not a statutory requirement of the Government/Council. Bea reported that the possibility of funding would be kept on their agenda. She then thanked Maureen for her excellent television explanation as to how the Friends Volunteers work in conjunction with the Council.</p> <p>Several suggestions were made as to how funding for parks could be boosted including Burnley people paying to visit the Hall, increased parking charges, Crowd Funding Campaign, workshop could be led by Sean.</p> <p>Greenspaces Andy Buck presented a hard copy of his report to the Chair. He reported that funding for the maintenance of the Golf Courses could be transferred from Parks to Leisure. Work on the Bowling Green has been completed. New litter bins and bollards have been installed. Andy related that the Classic Car Event was very successful, but less so the Music Event. He outlined how the reduction of staff affects how and when jobs are done. He thanked Barbara Nutter for her help around the gardens. Appeals were put out by Sean Kerr for volunteers for the newly formed Calder Park Friends and by Phil Dykes for training in the</p>	

	<p>use of some machinery used in woodland activities. These activities provide wood for log burners used in some parks and woodchip for play areas. Andy asked for volunteers to help on Bonfire Night.</p> <p>Feeding of ducks and squirrels should be discouraged to avoid attracting vermin. When asked about Himalayan Balsam Picking Andy informed us that there are plans for this in the coming year.</p> <p>Maureen thanked his team for their hard work in supporting the park and Andy said he appreciated the help received with all the events which took place over the last year.</p> <p>Towneley Hall Mike Townend reported that pictures are to be re- hung in Hall in November.</p>	All
4	<p>FOTP Treasurer's Report Richard Moss provided a hard copy of the accounts which currently stand at £18,000 – a substantial amount due to a Living Legacy, various donations and Gift Aid Tax Refunds. Phil Dykes from the Woodland Volunteers asked the Friends for financial help to purchase tools. Maureen said that the Friends would consider this at their next meeting and offered the use of the Friends tools.</p>	All
5	<p>FOTP Chairman's Report Maureen and Roger Leach prepared a computer presentation showing the activities undertaken by the Friends over the last year which include:- Halloween & Bonfire Events, bulb planting, bird feeding, craft clubs, Newsletter, History Leaflet, Website, Facebook, Easter Trail, Italian Garden Plant Sale, Brass Band, benches and plant memorials, comment boxes, area checks, benches, litter bins & labels, balsam picking, litter picking, Summer Trails, Woodland and Heritage Event.</p> <p>New projects – Maureen is due to attend a meeting with Simon Goff and Carly Glover re improving the Barwise Play Area. Bea Foster informed the attendees that the Council would fund its maintenance. The purchase and siting of a Defibrillator is to be discussed at a future meeting of the Friends.</p>	MF/S All
6	<p>Appointment of FOTP Officers</p> <p>Chair Maureen Frankland offered to continue for another year.</p> <p>Vice Chair Pat Ashton</p> <p>Treasurer Richard Moss</p> <p>Cashier Pat Colbran</p> <p>Secretary Pat Colbran and Margaret Crane to take Minutes. Gill Robinson offered to help with secretarial tasks.</p>	
7	<p>The Year Ahead The plant sale of flowers removed from the Italian Garden to continue. Tulips sell well, but the Friends felt that removing primulas to Queens Park in May and their replanting back in Towneley would be too onerous a task.</p>	
8	<p>Future Meetings Maureen thanked everyone for attending and agreed that Meetings would continue to be held at 10:00am. The dates in January, April, July and October to be announced later.</p>	