

FRIENDS OF TOWNELEY PARK (Reg. Charity no. 1144988)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – October 13th 2012

Held in the Lecture Theatre, Towneley Hall.

If you have any thoughts or comments on these Minutes, please forward them to the Secretary before November 7th so that they can be recorded, rather than waiting until the October 2013 AGM

Present: Maureen Frankland, Ronnie Pollard, Pat Colbran, Roger Atkinson, Keith Buchanan
Pat & Pete Ashton, June Evans, Tony Kitto, Andy Buck. John Nuttall, Peter Thorne, Susan Barker, Margaret Crane

Apologies: Sylvia Hagan, Louise Chesbrough, Jill Urquhart, Roger Leach

1. The Chairman welcomed all who attended.

2. 2011 AGM Minutes given out. Pat Ashton proposed and June Evans seconded that they were a true record. The Minutes were unanimously accepted.

3. **Matters arising:**

Peter Thorne noted that his name had been omitted from the “apologies” and Andy was included twice! Pat said sorry, and will amend the master copy .

4. **Chairman’s Report:**

- Maureen thanked everyone for another successful and busy year. Sponsorship money from various sources had enabled many of our activities to take place. (LCC Ward Opportunities Fund, Local Members Grant Scheme and Green Partnership, Calico ABC Fund, Skipton Building Society, Big Lottery funding for the Fitness equipment and a big HLF grant (just confirmed) for a historical survey of the Park plus reinstating the Fountain and putting wicker deer in the Italian garden) This will be phased in over two years, with public workshops and schools involvement.

A list of our year’s activities was circulated and future plans discussed:

- **The Fitness equipment** is being well used by all ages. Thankfully no vandalism reported.
- **Bird Feeders:** Members were asked to take extra care, and stand well clear when re-filling the feeders. June Evans volunteered to keep the bird reserve feeders topped up. Bird food was given out to the volunteers and a rota made up to Christmas.
- **The balsam pulling** sessions have been well supported, with additional removal by the FOB. Plans for 2013 will be discussed in the Spring.
- **The web site** is functioning well, thanks to Tony for his help and assistance. Pat, Richard, Susan and Roger A will now take on the role of editing the site.
- **DVD’s and cards** are still selling slowly.
- **The question of insurance** was debated. BBC no longer includes Friends Groups in their new policy, which throws us into looking for our own cover. Some of our activities will still be valid if we work alongside Park staff. Simon will advise us on just what we will need in a policy. He may be able to use some of his budget to finance this. Members expressed dismay that BBC had taken this route, as our volunteer work and fund raising for Park improvements must save the Council loads of money over the years.
- **Defibrillator:** Susan had looked into the finance implications from the Heart Foundation. The equipment would cost £400 plus £200 every two years for maintenance. They would provide training. This equipment could only be available when the Hall was open and a trained person was available, and furthermore, wider use in the Park would be limited. It was decided to pass this information to Ken Darwen with a suggestion that the Towneley Hall Society could be consulted. We all felt that it was a useful service to have available, but would be an impossible drain on our finances.
- Maureen had obtained a donation of tree saplings (105 plus one Royal Oak) from the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee. We will be planting these alongside Forest of Burnley volunteers **on November 28th at 11am** along the Small Holdings Trail(meet at the Rotunda). Bring a spade and wear stout footwear. Trees for Burnley will provide tree spirals, and we will buy stout canes through Keith.
- **The Christmas event** this year has a theme of “12 days of Christmas.” Roger Leach will be on hand to take photos with Santa. There will be gift aid slips for people to fill in so that we can maximise the value of any donations.

- **An Enforcement Officer** has been appointed to oversee problems with dog mess, parking and the clearway. People with children at Unity College should use the new Woodgrove car park and not park on the Holmes Road. 20 minutes free parking is allowed for this.
- **The Green Flag Action Plan** is being updated by Andy, and will be distributed for comments. It will also be on the Burnley.gov.uk web site.

Andy and Tony are working on an application for **Green Heritage Status** for the Park.

5. **Secretary's Report:** Usual distribution of Minutes, Officers Reports and updates to all our members, council officers, local park residents and businesses. Thanks to Andy, Keith and Graham for their regular reports and input.

Funding applications to the LCC Local Members Grant scheme has covered costs for the Autumn 2011 and Spring 2012 Newsletters and two events at the Woodland Festival. Many thanks to Cllrs. Brindle, Sumner, and Briggs for approving these grants.

I have also obtained funds of £129.00 from the Burnley Rotary Club to buy plants to tidy up the garden near the War Memorial which they had funded in 2005.

A letter of thanks from Keith Wilson thanking the Group for their help and funding at the Woodland Festival has been received.

6. **Financial Report:** See separate page for the annual accounts statement.

June was thanked for keeping the books in such good order.

She pointed out that £1000.00 was set aside from the balance at the bank to maintain the Scooters, from an earlier Cooperative Membership Scheme grant.

7. Election of Officers

Chair: Maureen Frankland. Vice Chair: Roger Leach. Secretary: Pat Colbran. Treasurer: June Evans.

All four officers agreed to serve a further year. All were unanimously elected. Pat said she would serve this year, but wishes to pass on the position at the next AGM.

Maureen thanked Pat and June for their work in keeping the Group running smoothly over the year.

Pat Ashton thanked Maureen on behalf of the members for all her work which had underpinned our many activities.

8. Volunteer contacts for projects:

Pat Ashton for Newsletter production: Susan Barker for publicity and notice boards: June Evans for Hall notice board: Pete Ashton for Gardening Club: Pat & Richard Colbran for website: Sylvia Hagan For Litter picking: Maureen Frankland for liaison with the Hall re scooters: John Nuttall for cleaning and mechanical liaison for Scooters: Susan and Maureen for Heritage Lottery project.

This concluded the Official meeting, and after refreshments the following points were raised:

1. An old oak tree in the Unity College grounds had been chopped down without consultation with tree officers about its condition or safety. The tree had been a bat roost over the years and it was a pity that this tree had such an untimely end.

2. The Ribble Rivers Trust would like our help in a project in an area between Unity College and Fulfilledge. Through a grant from the Environment Agency, BBC will repair and improve the footpath and also improve the water quality from the wetland into the Calder.

Our input would be to plant wild flowers. If possible, shale should be removed before addition of compost to support plant growth.

We are pleased that a footbridge can be installed over the overflow river from Unity College so that a circular walk round the wetland can be reinstated.

3. Jay Care had serviced one of the scooters, so they are now all in order.

4. Pat Ashton would like suitable photos to use in the Newsletters. These can be put on Flickr website.

5. Trees for Burnley have a working party on **Sunday December 9th (10.30 – 3.30)**. Tools and lunch provided! Meet at depot by staff car park.

6. The Gardening Club is considering buying some tools which could also be used by the gardeners. We feel that small tools should be bought by each gardener for their own use, but we may provide rakes, spades etc., if proper safe storage and labelling can be assured. Funding will have to be found. Pete will liaise with Steve Wood.

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