

Minutes of Friends of Manor Gardens and Gildredge Park General Meeting and First AGM

Held on: 18.10.2011

Venue: The Lamb Inn, Eastbourne

Present at meeting:

Mary Corran (Joint Chair) Elizabeth Cunningham (Joint Chair) Douglas Vernon (Treasurer) Charlotte Stevens (Secretary) Kirsten Hepburn (Deputy Secretary)

Gareth Williams (Parks and Gardens) Andrew Tilney (Park Ranger) Councillor Annabelle West, Councillor Tom Liddiard. Guest speakers John Henderson from Friends of Princes Park and Sandy Boyce Sharp Chair of Friends of Hampden Park and thirty members and prospective members were also present

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Allun Cooke

Points discussed and actions to be taken.

1.Minutes from Committee meeting held on the 3.10.2011

These were agreed by everyone who attended the meeting to be a true and accurate record and it was proposed they be signed by the Chair.

2.The Constitution

The constitution was read and agreed by all present. Proposed by the Chair and seconded

Election of officers and members of the committee

Committee members proposed and seconded were Dian Quinton, Kate Beaumont, Brian McGeary, Jean Mackenzie and Andrea Spiller.

3.Amendment to constitution

It was put to the committee that the £5 membership registration fee should be for lifetime membership rather than for the year 2011/2012 as agreed in the constitution. The reason given was that a large number of permanent members would increase opportunities for obtaining funding for future projects in Manor Gardens and Gildredge Park.

All present agreed. An amendment was proposed by the Chair and seconded

4. Operation Blitz

There was a short discussion on operation Blitz, the program designed to help reduce vandalism. Registration forms obtained from Sussex Police were available to all. Individuals wishing to register as participants were asked to complete the forms and hand them to the secretary to be forwarded to Sussex Police.

The committee were recommended to invite local PCC and PCSO Anita Edwards to the next General Meeting.

Forms to be forwarded to Sussex Police and both officers to be contacted by the secretary.

AOB

Councilor West and Councilor Liddiard announced their project to plant 40,000 throughout Upperton Ward's Green spaces. Friends of Manor Gardens and Gildredge Park were invited to join them in planting bulbs in Manor Gardens on the 22nd November. Children and grandchildren welcome to participate.

Members are invited to meet Councilors at 3 o'clock outside the Manor House on the 22nd November.

The two guest speakers gave us an overview of their own experiences with groups of Friends. John Henderson, from Friends of Princes Park, was very positive about what could be achieved, especially with the help of Parks and Gardens over the seven years of his Association. Then Sandy Boyce Sharp, Chair of Friends of Hampden Park, spoke of what they had accomplished, in particular work on the Decoy Pond, and what possibilities there were for fund raising for major projects. Both were very encouraging to our fledgling organisation, and a lot of excellent advice.

Jean Mackenzie provided information about the cost per head of a coach trip to Pashley Manor gardens for the Tulip festival in April/May 2012. She also suggested other gardens the Friends might wish to visit in the future.

To be discussed at a later date:

5. Date of Next Meeting:

A general and social meeting with fundraising will take place at The Lamb Inn on the 13th December from 6pm. A quiz, a raffle and other entertainments were proposed. Members were invited to come up with other fundraising ideas and convey them to the Chair as early as possible prior to the meeting.

Laurence Steven's offer of a talk on the history of manor gardens was accepted and it is hoped a location can be found where people other than the friends can also attend.

Meeting Closed at 7.30