

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends Held at Woodthorpe Grange on Wednesday 28th March 2018

Present:

Alex Staniforth – FoWGP Chair
Paul R Swift
Mavis Broomhall
Janice Farr

Anne Spalton
Sue Bearman
David Monkton
Peter Loewenstein

Janet Grimley
Marian Staniforth
David Selman
Martin Harris – NCC Parks

Welcome

The Chair, Alex Staniforth welcomed everyone to the meeting at The Grange.

Apologies

Anne Bentley, Colin Rae, Laura Archer, Bridget Bagaley

The Future Direction of the Friends of Woodthorpe Grange Park (FoWGP)

An opportunity had arisen for possible future funding for the Friends and one of the stipulations to qualify for this funding was the Friends would be obliged to hold an Annual General Meeting. Therefore, the scheduled bi-monthly meeting became our first Annual General Meeting (AGM). What follows is a summary of that meeting.

Further stipulations for qualification to funding are:

- The Friends' Group has a Constitution.
- The Group has a bank account with three authorised signatories.
- A Draft Constitution was discussed and comments, amendments etc. were noted and agreed upon. These included:
 - That a clause to be inserted paying regards to any possible conflicts of interest that may arise.
 - In light of the new, soon to be passed General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which comes into effect on 25th May 2018 and will introduce more stringent rules how organisations such as ours manage personal data and how essential it is we comply with these. The Friends accepted the need to abide by these new regulations.
- A Friends' Steering Committee is set up with a requirement of at least four (4) members as a minimum for a quorum. The Steering Committee to comprise: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. After a brief discussion the following were elected to fill these positions:
 - **Chair:** Alex Staniforth – nominated by Anne Spalton, seconded by Paul Swift.
 - **Vice- Chair:** Paul Swift – nominated by Mavis Broomhall, seconded by Sue Bearman.
 - **Treasurer:** Matt Wilson* – nominated by Peter Loewenstein, seconded by Anne Spalton.
 - **Secretary:** Marian Staniforth – nominated by David Selman, seconded by David Monkton.
 - *Nominated in his absence; however, Matt accepted the position by email the following day.
- The purpose of the Committee is to be responsible for decision making; all of which would need to be endorsed by the Friends as a whole. Note: If there was an even split on any matter the Chair to have the casting vote.
- Future AGMs: These will take place in March each year.

Accounts: Legal status of the Friends requires further clarification. Any profits gained to be used exclusively for the benefit of the Friends and no other purpose.

Funding: Martin Harris explained the basis of Ward Funding from elected councillors within the ward the Grange and Park are located. There are three (3) councillors in the ward. Up to £500 may be applied for by the Friends for activities it wants to pursue and benefit the Park. Other possible sources of funding could

include the local Co-op Community Fund. Martin will move forward on this on our behalf. In the meantime, we could ask for donations from the public? Posters would be needed around the Park to flag up this suggestion if it goes ahead.

The Draft Constitution with the amendments was accepted by the meeting.

Additions:

- Group email list needed to inform members of the Friends about our activities. People would need to agree to give their details - see earlier item above ref. GDPR.
- Paul Swift suggested issuing a newsletter via the Friends' website which could be printed off.
- Members of the public unable to attend the Friends' bi-monthly meetings can register an interest to join the Friends as members. However, for members to vote there is a requirement they attend meetings in person.

That concluded the business of the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the FoWGP

E&OE