

## FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

### Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends held at the Woodthorpe Grange on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Also including the Minutes of the previous meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

#### Present:

Alex Staniforth – FoWGP Chair	Anne Spalton	Janet Grimley
Paul R Swift	Sue Bearman	Marian Staniforth
Mavis Broomhall	David Monkton	David Selman
Janice Farr	Peter Loewenstein	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 25<sup>th</sup> 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**

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**

The minutes were taken as a true record of that meeting.

#### **Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

- Further work has been carried out in the Dell Garden and a tree (a deep purple magnolia) will be planted on the top bank of the garden.
- No replacement for Ranger, Steve Doughty at present. Simon Jenkins will be working at local nature reserves.
- The Friends' websites are regularly updated by Paul Swift.
- The Nottingham Suburban Railway Society may be encouraged to become a member of the Friends.

#### **Woodthorpe Grange Park Updates**

- No further information on Plant Shop café at present.
- Improvement to the surface area around the café will not be cheap as its successor needs to be permanent and hard-wearing. Vehicle use is problematic and is currently under review.
- No plans at present for Summer Events.
- No further information on return of the Saturday Food Market.
- A large tree that came down in the railway cutting has been attended to.
- Fifty (50) young oaks have been planted at various locations around the park.
- Park Lives is still relevant and ongoing.

#### **Volunteering Updates**

- The first **Litter Picking** event took place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Five (5) volunteers lent a hand at filling seven (7) large bags of litter which required a borrowed trolley from the Plant Shop.
- The next volunteering session will be a second **Litter Picking** event take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 11.00 am. The meeting place is the Plant Shop where litter pickers and bags can be collected. High Vis vests and protective gloves needed for volunteers.

#### **Any other business (AOB)**

A Pull-up Display Banner was demonstrated by Paul Swift which could be used by the Friends at the Christmas Fair for example and any other event requiring promotion.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of The Friends will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Grange commencing at 6.30pm.

E&OE