

FRIENDS OF WOODTHORPE GRANGE PARK

Notes of Annual General Meeting held on 7 November 2025

Attendees

FoWGP

Paul Swift (Chair)

Peter Wood

Linda Wood

Helena Shipston

Bill Shipston

Janet Grimley

Matt Wilson

Derek Stafford

Anne Spalton

Marie Broomhall

Ian Broomhall

Laura Vann-Leeds

NCC

Hilary Thumpston

Danielle Green (representing Nottingham Green Guardians)

Apologies

Russell Kitson

Janet Kitson

Agenda

Item 1 – Welcome to all new members

Paul welcomed Laura as a new member of the group and noted that two other new members were unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

Item 2- Apologies for absence

As listed above.

Item 3 – Remarks by Chair

Paul summarised the matters previously circulated with the agenda and round the table at the meeting.

It was pleasing to see the completion of the restoration of the train sculpture. All were urged to keep an eye on it and report to NCC any damage that may occur. The addition of a buffer as previously proposed, as well as a replacement for the missing headlight, would also be welcomed.

The heritage walks and presentations this year have been well attended and enjoyable.

Matt stated that it was helpful to set out clearly the key matters that FoWGP group can focus on to complement the responsibilities and activities of NCC in the park, namely:-

- heritage
- gardening
- supporting funding applications

Item 4 – Treasurer's Report

Matt circulated his report at the meeting, which highlighted the current account balance, expenditure items over the last year and income from memberships. Given the healthy balance of £1,423.27, ideas for future spending in the short and medium term would be welcomed.

In commenting on the report, Peter noted that the previous source for the buffer had now fallen through, so an alternative would need to be sourced and funded.

Peter also highlighted the following matters to be addressed:-

- the need to further treat Japanese Knotweed around the entrance to the nursery and plant shop, as well as the removal, rather than just cutting down, of stinging nettles
- the specialist previously sourced to restore the damaged gravestone was still committed to the work (free of charge), but is unfortunately still unable to confirm a timescale, given their other commitments.
- The on-going tree replacement programme – noting that it had not been possible to source a Scarlett Oak as proposed

Peter also reminded members of the weekly gardening sessions between 10 am and 12 noon on Sundays.

It was also suggested that some future FoWGP meetings could be held on a more informal/social basis e.g. at the Samuel Hall (Wetherspoons) on weekday evenings, to complement the more formal quarterly meetings at Woodthorpe Grange.

Item 5 – Election of Committee Members for 2025-26

The following were nominated, seconded and unanimously supported at the meeting for a further year:-

Chair: Paul Swift
Vice-Chair: Peter Wood
Treasurer: Matt Wilson
Minute Secretary: Derek Stafford

Paul emphasised that he would be unable to continue to cover the Membership Secretary position as well as Chair, given other commitments and would therefore welcome nominations for this role for 2025-26.

Laura offered to undertake this role and this was unanimously supported.

Item 6 - Other Business (for discussion)

- Website redesign

Paul noted that the FoWGP website, whilst up to date in terms of information, would benefit from being updated in respect of presentation.

Laura advised that she works as a graphic designer and would be happy to take on this responsibility.

It was noted that the position regarding the current web host would need to be ascertained before any redesign takes place.

Action – Paul to confirm position with current web host

- Online membership of FoWGP

This could potentially be looked at as part of any redesign of the website.

- New membership cards

Paul noted that the current membership cards were difficult to write on. Laura advised that she could look at this as part of her new Membership Secretary role.

Other Matters

Hilary provided the following updates on behalf of NCC:-

- Her role within the Parks & Open Spaces team was changing and a new person will be assigned to attend FoWGP meetings from 2026
- The resurfacing of the footpath between the park and the flats is now nearing completion
- An application to renew the Green Flag status for the park will be made
- The Sherwood Makers Christmas Craft Fair will be taking place in the nursery/plant shop over the weekend of 22-23 November.

The following questions and/or areas of concern were raised:-

Helena Is any action being taken to fill the potholes on the vehicular entrances/exits to the park and in the car park?

Response

This has been identified as a priority action to be addressed as soon as possible, although those areas requiring full replacement of the surface, rather than just the filling of the holes, would be dependent on securing funding.

Paul There are a number of trees with dead branches along the boundary of the park with the back gardens of properties on Sherwood Vale, which he has previously reported to NCC.

Response

This should be reported to 'Tree Services' at NCC via a formal request for action. Danielle further advised that the condition of all of the ash trees within the park were being looked at in respect of the problem of 'die back'.

Bill What is the position regarding the trees planted within the area of the park and fenced in?

Response

This area consists of a range of different species which have been planted specifically to support and encourage wildlife

Peter There are some trip hazards near to the pine trees.

Response

We are aware of these and they will be dealt with

Anne How many gardeners does NCC now have working within the park?

Response

2 full-time gardeners work full-time at the park, focusing on grounds maintenance.

Danielle reminded members of the monthly gardening sessions being run at the park by Nottingham Green Guardians, on the first Tuesday morning in each month. She would also promote the group's Sunday morning gardening sessions within the Nottingham Green Guardian.

Paul reminded the meeting that he would be laying the wreath on behalf of FoWGP at the war memorial in Mapperley on Sunday 16 November. All are welcome to attend.

In the light of the discussions at the meeting, Matt suggested adding 'Trees' as an additional focus for FoWGP's activities within the park, given the expertise within the group and its potential to complement NCC's work.

Date of next meeting

Friday 30 January 2026 2.00 pm at Woodthorpe Grange.