

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Scarborough Valley Gardens
held in the Conference Room, Woodend, The Crescent, Scarborough, YO11 2PW
on Wednesday November 1 2023 at 7pm**

Present

C Cooper (Chair of the meeting); A Doherty (minute taker); D Ambler; G Cooper; S Glew;
K Grobicki; M Grobicki; P Knox; A Clay; M Prince; A Perry; R Fields; A Shields; H Chapman; C Eastwood;
M Piculs

The Secretary welcomed everyone to the meeting. He confirmed that the agenda and all papers had been emailed out to all members prior to the meeting. Paper copies of the agenda and papers had also been provided.

1. Apologies

Eric Hewes, Jane Millar, Carol Seagrove.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 1 November 2022

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed A Doherty, Seconded M Prince.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Amendments to the Constitution

The Secretary explained that, in light of the founding Chair and Secretary leaving, the Committee had discussed at its meeting in September how best to structure the organisation moving forward. Different members of the Committee now take the lead on projects which would have been the remit of the Chair in the past. The Committee were struggling to define the role of the Chair as a separate entity so are proposing to remove it as a named Officer. To do this the Constitution needs to be amended and those amendments approved at this meeting.

The full rationale for amending the Constitution had been emailed to all members prior to the meeting along with the Constitution itself showing the proposed changes.

The Committee formally propose the following changes to the Constitution.

- Remove the formal role of Chair.
- Amend the structure of the Committee to two named officers – Secretary and Treasurer – and 8 other members.
- Assign the chairing of the Annual General Meeting to the Secretary.
- Assign the chairing of general committee meetings to members of the committee on a rolling basis.

The proposal to amend the constitution as noted above was AGREED unanimously.

5. Annual Report including presentation of accounts.

The Annual Report and accounts had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

The Secretary explained that the report reflects the changes this year in the structure of the organisation as well as providing a summary of the new projects started this year. The working relationship with the Parks and Gardens team has been very positive and he thanked them for their continued support.

The Secretary thanked the Treasurer (who was unable to attend the meeting) for providing the financial report. There is just over £7,000 in the bank, of which £5,000 was a grant from TransPennine. This had originally been designated to cover the cost of repair to a wall in the Gardens but, on further examination by North Yorkshire Council, it was clear the cost of the right materials to repair the wall would be nearer £40k, if, indeed, like for like could be found. The wall itself can be made safe by other means. The grant money will be used for other projects in the Gardens.

The Annual Report and Accounts were RECEIVED.

6. Election of Officers

An invitation to join the Committee had been emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

The current Committee had all indicated their wish to continue to serve on the Committee with Chris Cooper as Secretary and Jane Millar as Treasurer. No other nominations for the Committee or for the named roles were received.

The Secretary therefore asked the meeting to approve the Election of the Officers, and the Committee as below:

Named Officers:

- Secretary – Chris Cooper
- Treasurer – Jane Millar

Committee Members:

- Debbie Ambler
- Angela Doherty
- Colin Eastwood
- Sue Glew
- Marie Grobicki
- Mick Prince

The Election of Officers and Committee Members as detailed above was AGREED unanimously.

It was noted that Andrew Clay is a co-opted member of the Committee in his role as CEO of Scarborough Museums and Galleries.

7. Vote of Thanks

The Secretary wished to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the contribution of the former Chair and Secretary, Felicity and Graham Stephenson. Their vision setting up the Friends Group in the first place coupled with their drive and enthusiasm cannot be underestimated and he wished to record a Vote of Thanks for all their hard work.

The formal Vote of Thanks to Felicity and Graham Stephenson was AGREED.

The Secretary will write to them after this meeting.

The formal meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed

Date

At the end of the meeting there was a brief Q&A session followed by a short break for refreshments, after which Andrew Clay gave a fascinating talk on the history of some of the houses on the Crescent focusing on the people who lived there and illustrating his talk with some wonderful paintings/portraits.