

**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 Thursday 23 October 2025 at 7pm**

Item 2

Present

M Prince (Secretary, and Chair of the meeting); A Doherty (Treasurer and note-taker), D Ambler; G Cooper; S Glew (and Harper); K Grobicki; C Eastwood; K Eastwood; C Ellis; C Seagrove; H Chapman; I Smith (NYC); R Weatherly (NYC)

Speakers: David Birsdall accompanied by Veronica Dickinson.

1. Apologies

M Grobicki.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting held on 28 November 2024

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed D Ambler, Seconded S Glew.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Amendment to Constitution

Following a question raised at the AGM last year, a quorum for Committee Meetings has now been added to the Constitution. The Committee have been already working to this quorum but it is now being formalised.

The Amendment to the Constitution was AGREED.

5. Annual Report including presentation of accounts.

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

The Secretary gave a verbal summary of his report and the following was noted:

- FOSVG is now in its sixth year and we are very grateful for the continuing support and hard work of our members at the now fortnightly work parties.
- The Committee meets roughly every month and works closely with North Yorkshire Council to highlight any issues in the Gardens.
- The speed sign on Valley Road is in place again, although currently stuck on 'Slow Down'
- A Public Space Protection Order covering the Gardens has been re-instated for a further 3 years.
- Unfortunately, the bench installed in the Peace Garden was removed due to reports of anti-social behaviour. It has been difficult to get to this area of late and we would like to be able to revisit this to work on it again. Ian Smith from NYC confirmed that they were going to start clearing undergrowth down to the Peace Garden to hopefully open it up again.
- Two noticeboards (made locally) will be installed in the Gardens - one on Valley Road, near the flower bed, and the other at Vernon Road bridge entrance.
- A plan to cover the grotto area with photographs and historical information about the Gardens is being developed. Don French have created a mock up and this was available at the meeting. In response to a question from one of the members about restoring the path around the grotto, Ian Smith from NYC confirmed that they are looking at options for the best way to improve drainage and accessibility – the work could be done by a joint NYC and Friends working party. This, combined with the photo gallery, should hopefully encourage visitors and gradually improve the area.

The Treasurer outlined the spend over the past year as detailed in the accounts. The following was noted:

- We now have to pay a monthly fee for the website of £2.99 per month -it had been free for the first couple of years.
- The biggest spend is for one noticeboard (c£646). A second noticeboard has also been ordered but most of that cost will be covered thanks to a grant of £500 from Cllr Janet Jefferson.
- We have received c£20 via the Easy Fundraising scheme – an easy way for people to donate at no extra cost to themselves.

Finally, we wish to formally acknowledge the contribution of the former Secretary, Chris Cooper. Chris sadly passed away earlier this year and he is greatly missed. We will be putting a dedication on a bench to honour his memory.

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 following was noted:

Officers

- Current Secretary, Mick Prince, indicated that he wished to continue in the role.
- Current Treasurer, Angela Doherty, indicated that she wished to continue in the role.
- No other nominations for the Officers had been received prior to the meeting.

Committee

- All current Committee members indicated that they wished to continue to serve on the Committee.
- No other nominations for the Committee had been received prior to the meeting.

Members who wished to join the Committee could do so at any point as the Constitution allows for members to be co-opted on to the Committee before being formally elected at the next AGM.

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

Named Officers:

- Secretary – Mick Prince
- Treasurer – Angela Doherty

Committee Members:

- Debbie Ambler
- Colin Eastwood
- Sue Glew

Proposed C Seagrove, Seconded K Grobicki.

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

The formal meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed

Date

After the formal business was completed, we enjoyed an entertaining talk by David Birdsall, Scarborough Town Crier.