



Friends of Horton Country Park

AGM & Meeting minutes

For the meeting held on the 06/04/2010

Attendees: Brendan Kilby (Chairman), Terry Summerfield (Treasurer), Lindsay Coomber (EEBC), Alan Cheshire, Anne Cheshire, Mo Pearcey, Pam Pearcey, Eileen Tomlin

Apologies: Pat Lowe, Bill Facer

Brendan welcomes all members to the AGM and expressed his thanks on being elected the chairman for the last 3 years.

AGM Elections

Chair

Anne Cheshire proposed Brendan to be elected as chair for the next 3 year and was seconded by Pam Pearcey.

Brendan accepted with thanks and will endeavour to do his best by the group but reiterated that as chair his role is to work on behalf of the friends as guidance / help. The members are all to be a part of the structure and contribute to the group.

Treasurer

Terry Summerfield will continue to be treasurer, proposed by Brendan Kilby and seconded by Alan Cheshire

Membership Officer

Laurence Coley has resigned as membership officer.

Mo Pearcey proposed Anne Cheshire to take over the role and was seconded by Terry Summerfield.

Anne accepted and will now be sending out the membership letters.

Laurence resignation was partly to do with the low numbers attending the weekend tasks.

Minute Secretary

Pat Lowe had emailed Brendan to resign from the position.

Since Pat moved away from the park she spends little time here and feels it's time to move on. She has become more involved in the Friends of Ewell Court.

Minutes will be taken by a member of the Countryside Team until a secretary position is filled.

Start of Meeting

Brendan will send out thank you/acknowledgements to Pat and Laurence to wish them all the best for the future.

Members agree that this year they need to focus on recruiting new members and moving forward with the group.

Treasurers Report

This year saw the highest number of paid members for many years. 46 members have paid, and the number increase is due to the success of the recent Autumn Fair. £1 of the membership has been paid into the groups insurance along with £200 from the Autumn Fair profits (total profit made from AF was £381.40).

Membership is due and a reminder letter needs to go out, with the exemption of the new member that joined at the fair in September

Action – Anne to issue out letter/ forward on information to Terry

No audit has taken place this year as yet due to the auditor being Ian Halluams; Sarah's Dad and the new arrival has put back his work. This will be done ASAP.

Brendan thanked Terry for his work this year.

Management Forum

Group agreed that all attendees to the meeting seemed positive with a special mention of Richard Haygarth, from the golf course, who seemed partially keen to see the creation of the management forum.

The local Councillor was unable to attend due to mayoral duties this year but will return to normal duties after April 10.

A negative response to the forum was from the Police and David Lloyd Centre. Both parties will be invited to the next meeting

(Stewart and Sarah from the Countryside Team did a good presentation at the meeting)

Park Management

Brendan wished to thank the group, Rangers and Countryside Team for the work done in the park this year, especially in the face of difficult times.

Despite lower than normal attendance on the friends task the park is looking good and appreciate that most people's time has been spent on the organisation of the autumn fair which was a big highlight this year and was extremely pleased with the day and all the effort everyone put in.

Brendan updated the group that Nick Owen from the Lower Mole Project is currently in discussions with RBK about work under taken in Castle Hill LNR and future projects to improve the site for access and biodiversity. This is ongoing and he will update the group when plans have been agreed.

Cllr Mason has offered the group £500 towards a project/work in the Country Park. The Countryside team have suggested that the money could go on some much needed surgery to the fruit trees in the orchard. Members agreed on the project and Brendan will email Cllr Mason with the suggestion. Lindsay will update Cllr on the work needed and how the money would be spent.

Brendan updated the members on the ongoing discussions with other local friends groups in reference to the Ranger Service and informed the group that he had a telephone meeting with Frances Rutter, Chief Ex EEBC, to discuss ongoing issues around the park and the declined in patrol presence which is greatly affecting the health of the park. General management issues were also discussed and the group agreed with Brendan's decision to raise the matter with the chief ex.

AOB

- Next friends task in on Sunday 19th April – work wood task to replace broken signs in the park.
Action – Lindsay to advertise this in notice boards/ info centre.
- The friends/membership leaflet will need to be updated this year.
- Brendan informed the members on an invasive and toxic caterpillar that has made its way into the UK from Europe. It is the caterpillar from the oak processionary moth which is aptly named due to the fact that it walks up trees in formation. The hairs on the caterpillar are highly toxic and if seen should be reported to DEFRA. They are currently in Kew gardens and are in the process of being incinerated.

Next meeting: 1 June 2010
 7.30pm
 2 west park farmhouse, HCP