

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden held at Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden, on Wednesday 18 May 2016

Present: Brian Johnson (Chairman), Susan Brooks, Bob Jennings, Bill Leah, Janet Richards, Geoff Weston and other Friends members.

1. Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Kath Brown, Mr & Mrs Bamber, Nina & Hugh Kingston, Martin Holden, Margaret Davies, Lynda Skelhorne and Anne Ongley.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM held on 20 May 2015 were approved.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that:

- The new glasshouses had been open 20 months and had received much positive feedback.
- The new Café Co-ordinator, Khadi Bravo-Antelo, had worked wonders but had now left.
- More volunteers were needed for the café.
- The coach trip to Trentham Gardens had been very successful.

5. Treasurer's Report

The accounts up to March 2016 were presented. Auditing was not required but an independent check had been carried out by Ian Baxter who was an Accountant. The accounts would appear on the Charity Commission website (turnover and surplus). The income had increased by 70% over the last year and membership had increased marginally. There had been a price increase for membership and there were now 170 members (there had previously been over 200). A new membership form had been produced to insert into the new walled garden attraction leaflet.

Four events had showed a loss: the coach trip, Easter (purchase of new games), Picnic in the Park (cancelled), Members Only evening (heavily subsidised). The Food Fayre had been very successful and another would be held later in the year. Stalls were now hired out to outside organisations for the Food Fayre and Xmas Fayre and this had worked well. Produce sales had doubled and apple juice was selling well.

There was a balance of £26,000 and it had been agreed that £10,000 would be contributed towards resurfacing the yard car park and a detailed quote was awaited.

Investigations had taken place regarding investment of the balance but interest rates were so low that it wasn't worth doing.

6. Election of officers

Brian Johnson relinquished the Chair to Geoff Weston for the election of a new Chairman. Brian Johnson was unanimously re-elected and returned to the Chair.

Other posts were proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed as follows:

Treasurer	Ian Fountain
Secretary	Kath Brown
Membership Secretary	Jane Coumbarides
Volunteer gardener co-ordinator	Bob Jennings
Volunteer warden co-ordinator	Ian Fountain
Events co-ordinator	Jean Heath
Merchandise co-ordinator/Grants	Janet Richards
Café co-ordinator	Susan Brooks
General member	Bill Leah

There were no volunteers to take on the vacant roles of Publicity Co-ordinator, Website officer, or Historical Research Co-ordinator.

7. Future Expenditure Plans

A contribution of £10,000.00 would be made towards resurfacing of the rear yard and other suggestions were made as follows:

Tree carvings, resurfacing of gravel paths, refurbishment of the green gazebo and new side panels, a more permanent structure that won't deteriorate, storage facility for tables.

8. Close

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.