



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 19TH September 2023

7.30pm in the Community Room at St. James' Park

Present: Nigel Catling (NC); Hilde Gronsberg (HG), Sue Kinch (SK); Stuart Jones (SJ), Vicki Stacey (VS); Mike Page (MP) Stan Brooke (SB); Sarah Anderson (SA); Georgina Ellis (GE); Lizzie Jones (LJ); Cath Dixon (CD); John Miller (JM); Simon Anderson (SA)

Apologies: Mike Sanderman, Deborah Paige, Bruce Larner, Frances Churchward (FC); Verity Kerns (VK);

1. Welcome:

- SA chaired the meeting (thank you Sarah) and welcomed everyone.
- Apologies from FC, VK

2. Chair's Report

- Hilde read FCs' report
- Celebrated another successful year with events, thanked our supporters and those who have left others who are joining.
- See attached report

3. Treasurer's Report

- SJ read through the reports showing the accounts for the last financial year - (see attached Report)
- The accounts are looking healthy, forecast is to break even. Need to be vigilant about outgoings for the coming year.
- Accounts were validated by JM
- Any questions? If anyone wishes, then HG happy to forward or print out any copies of the reports from the AGM
- Big thanks were given to JM (all agreed)
- SJ would like to step down from role of treasurer for this cycle but will continue for the next few weeks. He has contributed 2/3 years and he was thanked by all.

4. **AGM Minutes from 2022** - Sarah asked if any queries? Proposed by Sue, seconded by Mike - agreed.

5. Appointment and remuneration of Independent Examiner for 2023-24

- MP proposed JM - seconded by SB - agreed.

6. Community Co-ordinator's Report

- Hilde shared her slide show presentation with action photographs (see attached) telling us about the year we've just had and our plans for next year.
- We are still re-building after covid - building support with similar groups like ours across Southampton.
- Summarised FOSJP's involvement with groups, social media, events, working with the community and forward planning.
- Celebrated 12 years of Green Flag award - proud of this!
- Gardening Group - lots of volunteers, won a Personal Health Group Grant. This went towards litter picking equipment.
- Thanks to Bruce for consistent photo sessions! Hilde encouraged us to have a look at videos she's put together of our volunteer groups on Facebook.
- Community Club figures - average of 9 guests per session max was 19! Lifeline for some people, friendship, board games, food banks, signposting MH. Work with So:Co too which has been very successful. Jim from So:Co ran a 12 week course - really engaged the group even composing with each

other, had a huge impact on people taking part - almost like a therapy session. Hoping for Jim to come back depending on grant.

- SK talked through our Events for the year:
 - Halloween Fun Day. Solent Rotary club donated 1000 crocus plants for volunteers to plant at the event
 - Wreath making workshop - Niki from GoodWreaths led this - advertising soon for the next one!
 - Litter picking - Kiwi Education wanted to do some community outreach. As a direct result of this, one of the young men from this group got signed up to do work experience with FoSJP.
 - Easter Event cancelled due to bad weather - but did run a scaled back event.
 - May Day event - 90 % of the cancelled Easter Event stalls rebooked for May Day event. Lovely feedback from that day
 - May Spring Clean with Asda - BBC South and Daily Echo attended. 3 second clip on BBC South News!
 - Main event was our Summer Festival - sponsorship from Utilita. The stage and kids' caps were paid for by them. 49 stalls, very hot day, falconry high display team for the first time. Hoping to welcome them back.
 - Shirley village show in September in Shirley Parish Hall for home baked, home grown, arts and crafts competition and first ever silent auction. Building long term interest in that on FB - date for 22/9/24.
 - Facebook statistics - our reach 79K (we don't pay for anything at all so this is a great achievement) FB visits 26k (Great!). Envious for other companies who pay to promote their FB pages.
 - Feedback v positive.
 - Next events - see below attached report. Imminent is Dog Show 7/10/23.
 - SA thanked HG for her presentation and also to SK.

7. Shirley Local History Group Report -

- VS read through her Report - see attached
- Pleased to run Autumn Heritage Talks - through Reaching Communities grant - back to pre-Covid figures in take up.
- History of Fire Brigade 1/10/23
- History of St James Park, 5/11/23
- Victorian Southampton in the Age of Steam 3/12/23
- The history group supported at May event and the Summer Festival. Helps to build up local history links with members of the community, lots of interest.
- SCC VE grant - this has been confirmed to be allowed to be used towards the brand new FoSJP hexagonal gazebo- as it can be used as an exhibition room for the History group.
- Small research committee meeting - Madge is the lady to ask about mills! She has done talks to WI groups and has donated her speakers fees of £100 to Friends of St. James' Park.
- Sad news about history group members. Peter Neal, Wendy Hobbs and Don Smith who recently sadly died this year.
- Able to give copies of Park history book to Don's son. They have copies of the Park History book to sell! Sold 6 or 7 recently.
- Issues with email which hopefully has been sorted.
- FB visits 2.2k (20-30K is the spitfire interest reach).
- Recruiting volunteers!
- Planning next year - local pamphlet to be made
- SA thanked VS for her continued support.

Break for tea and biscuits and chat.

8. FOSJP Gardening Team Report

- LJ read through her report (see below)
- Well supported by loyal volunteers and our community love the park.
- Has been focus on Botanical Walk beds. Please bring any surplus plants along!
- Leafmould area - bin made is successful - container frame needed for this area.
- Looking at option for secure garden storage.
- Possible future projects: roses, climbing plants, edible plants (raised bed or herb spiral within botanical walk bed, wild plants on back slope)
- Improving Heritage Bed
- SA thanked LJ for report and her hard work.
- Question - SA asked which fruit trees might be selected? LJ recognises there are people who forage in the park so we would need to discuss which trees best. Discussed honeysuckle in scented area - will look at budget.
- CD asked about making seed bombs through a workshop with kids. LJ enthusiastic about this- seed swaps, nature awareness during the events?

9. Parklife CIC report

- NC presented his report - see below
- Parklife is expanding and has had a successful year.
- Increased flow of customers - increased outdoor seating area. Run well.
- Community food aid service - v successful
- Food pantry project started - receive wide range of quality food which would otherwise have been wasted. See report. Monies shared between two partners - good feedback
- Working with Big Difference - clothing - planning to do this on a monthly basis.
- Boxing and Art lessons - positive results/Happy Café sessions too, Toddler group, art class and free Lego sessions.
- Problems with anti social behaviour - fast response by Police cured the problem.
- Future - new hires - NHS and Regents Park Community CC
- Looking ahead with positivity.
- Any questions?
- SA thanked NC
- CD asked about Food Pantry Project - if she buys food at lower price at café - concerned taking it from people in need? NC reassured CD that the Pantry program is more about re-purposing food so it's not wasted - everyone welcome to support it. CD asked if they might want to push that a bit more in their outreach. NC thanked her for her contribution.

10. Room to Reward Award Presentation - Cath Dixon and Victor Humphrey

- Hilde introduced the Volunteer Award system - lovely stay in a hotel to worthy winners.
- Commended Victor's contribution, donating plants, in the park at gardening at the weekends. Green Park inspector came - he turned up and impressed the inspector! Volunteering since 2016 - such a high level of commitment, understanding of plants and nature.
- Victor is working on current project led by HG to review all the plants in the park. Worthy nominee! Congratulations and thank you to Victor.
- Cath Dixon - a volunteer supporting with events, face painting/training sessions. HG remembers Cath's comment "look around you!" during an event which summed up how we try to reach our community and HG really appreciated this. Cath has been supporting our mission, played big part in fund raising - brilliant with young people. Through social media Cath organises who comes to help with F Painting. Consistent and wonderful to work with. Deserves hotel break away! Hilde thanked Cath and Cath accepted her award! Cath said "I really enjoys seeing their little faces - I love doing it, I'm in the park every day".

11. Re-appointment of existing trustees - questions invited

- Reappointment of MP, SB, FC, and SA thanked them all for their input. SA proposed, HG seconded this - agreed.
- Thanks for Julie Catling for her input. Continuing with events - NC will pass this on.
- Appointment of new trustees - MP took the chair for this. SA, GE and VK have contributed a lot of time to FOSJP and MP thanked them and for being willing to stand to be trustees. MP proposed, HG seconded. All in favour!
- SA asked if any changes to the constitution or resolutions by members?
- It was proposed that the resolution of flower bombing be introduced! - LJ proposed, HG seconded - agreed.

12. AOB -

- SA presented HG and SK with some thank you goodies for their work on our successful Summer Festival.
- No other comments. SA and HG thanked everyone for coming also to Simon Anderson for being IT expert!

Minutes recorded by GE 19.9.23