

## ***THE FRIENDS OF NEWPORT'S ORNAMENTAL PARK***

### **MINUTES OF 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT BEECHWOOD HOUSE**

**ON 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2016**

**Present:** 22 attendees including Committee. Apologies for absence were received from several members.

#### **1. Chair's Report**

The Chair, Kerry Battrick, reviewed the past year's activities and thanked everyone, particularly the Committee, for their help in making it another successful year. Among the many highlights were: successful visits to Hampton Court Castle, David Austin Roses and Packwood House; a plant swap coffee morning, a presentation to the Newport Outdoor Group and Xmas Wreath making event. At Belle Vue Park support was given to another successful Green Flag submission but concerns were raised over the transfer of Pavilion facilities to a private company. The team continue to maintain a flower bed at Beechwood Park; the latter has also seen the installation of a new play area courtesy of a prize donation. The donor has been made a life member. The team has also led on a bid for funding for replacing the old paddling pool area. Finally, Kerry stressed the need for a vision for the future with a regular programme of events.

#### **2. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Brian Ingleson, presented an audited set of accounts which showed a balance of £1268.81 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 compared to £725.98 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014.

#### **3. Appointment of Executive Officers.**

The following nominations were made and accepted:

Chair: Kerry Battrick; Vice Chair & Membership Secretary: Martyn Vaughan; Treasurer: Brian Ingleson; Minutes Secretary & Communications Officer: Joshua Gardner

#### **4. Appointment of Committee Members**

The following were appointed: Jeanne Sawyer, Vera Roberts, Val Clarke, Libby Felkin, Paul Bevan, and Rosalind Langfield with Jennie Judd representing Newport City Council.

#### **5. New Constitution**

A new constitution was unanimously approved. The principal change is the inclusion of clauses relating to Landfill Tax funding as required by Entrust - the regulatory body involved in the funding application.

## **6. Membership and Members Fees**

The Membership Secretary, Martyn Vaughan, reported that membership now stood at 82 compared to 71 at the previous AGM. It was agreed to hold membership fees at £5 for individuals and £8 for couples.

## **7. Park Development Manager's Report**

Jennie Judd gave a comprehensive assessment of the current situation with the management of Parks and Open Spaces in the city. Resources had dropped by 57% and together with health and safety issues had led to a major re-think of the way things are done. Examples are changes to the way grass cutting is carried out because of vibration issues and an earlier closing time for parks at 9pm rather than 10pm. The HHSS apprentice scheme continues although the 2 new recruits are shared with St Fagans. Belle Vue Park will again be assessed for Green Flag status although last year's impressive score of 80% means that there will be no formal assessment this year: a mystery shopper type visit instead. Jennie has also been closely involved with a submission on behalf of Gwent Crematorium. The regeneration of the old paddling pool area at Beechwood Park will have a major impact and further joint meetings need to be arranged to finalise plans. To facilitate this project and access Landfill Tax funds FONOP has registered as an Environmental Body with regulators Entrust. Finally, Jennie mentioned the mindless vandalism at Belle Vue and was able to confirm that all the damaged balustrade will be replaced.

## **8. Other Business**

Val circulated details regarding a forthcoming half day trip to Wyndcliffe Court, Chepstow on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Trips were also planned to Buscott Park, Cotswolds in July and Kilver Court, Shepton Mallet in September.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 at Civic Centre.