

Minutes of FoHC 16th September 2023

Present:

Pat Brownbill, Ivor Curtis, Beryl Docherty, Dorothy Holmes, Liz Lane, Leigh Lawson, Maggi Martin, Philippa Mathews, Sue Standing, Helen Stirling, Angela Turner, Jane Tomlinson, Jean White

Apologies for absence from:

John Brownbill, Eila Holroyd, Kay Jones, Hayley McInnes, Angela Levy, Jackie Rooney, Chris Rooney, Rob Tomlinson, Carol Sullivan

Our chair, Sue Standing, welcomed the members (10) and supporters present (3). Sue explained that she had apologies for absence from 8 members and 1 supporter and proxy votes from these absentees for voting for the new constitution and membership fee change. Sue also recorded that unfortunately two members had left FoHC: Peter Standing and Astrid Martin.

Last year's minutes

Sue briefly went over last year's minutes and these were accepted as correct without exception.

Constitution

The new constitution was discussed and unanimously accepted with six proxy votes and 10 votes from attending members. There were no manual modifications made and the constitution document was signed at the end of the meeting.

Committee members discussion and voting

Pat Brownbill was re-elected as treasurer with unanimous voting.

Maggi Martin was re-elected as membership secretary with unanimous voting.

Sue Standing stood again as chair as was elected unanimously.

There were no nominations for secretary. Members were encouraged to take a basic form of this role or to assist in this role. Jane Tomlinson said that Rob Tomlinson would continue this role on an interim basis with the hope that someone would assist him with a view to taking over the role. Rob was unanimously elected as interim secretary.

Organisational and Advocacy roles:

Pat Brownbill was unanimously elected as Heritage Advocate.

Rob Tomlinson was unanimously elected as Environmental Advocate in his absence.

No-one put themselves forward for the fundraising or volunteer co-ordinator roles. Members were asked for their ideas for fundraising and ask to convey them to the committee at a future date. Several members had suggestions for approaching other organizations about fundraising including Culberry Nursery, the U3A and horticultural societies. Philippa Mathews said she would approach the 'Two faced twins' for artwork to raise funds. Some members felt that there was a lack of information for ad hoc visitors. Jane Tomlinson agreed to produce a small handout for visitors giving illustrated information about our group with contact details to encourage new recruits and supporters. This

would free up conservation volunteers on busy Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. Dot Holmes felt that it would be helpful to know when the cemetery open as it was sometimes closed on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon. Dot also offered to produce a blog about the benefits of being a supporter.

Various Reports

The chair's report, the treasurer's report, the heritage report, the environmental report and the membership note which had been circulated in advance were all accepted. Maggi Martin noted that although nine people had filled in membership forms in June and July, only two had paid membership fees. Maggi will give the people who did not join another opportunity to sign up as members or supporters when she collects this year's fees.

Membership fee discussion:

There were 10 members present who voted on the membership fee rise and 6 proxy votes. 9 of the members at the meeting voting through the rise to £12 and 1 reluctantly agreeing to it. 4 of the proxy voters agreed to the membership fee rise and 2 reluctantly accepted the rise but felt it was too much or should have been a gradual rise. The membership rise, to £12 annually, was thus agreed with 13 positive votes and 3 reluctant votes.

A.O.B.

Everyone present was given the opportunity to raise any other business.

Helen Stirling raised the question of the bees as she thought there was going to vote on whether they were kept. Sue Standing said discussion of the bees had been postponed until after the A.G.M when Rob Tomlinson would produce a considered and referenced document on the environmental effects of the bees on the cemetery's biodiversity.

Angela Turner asked if David was going to do any more work on the birds in cemetery. Sue Standing said he plans to do a bird count later in the year but would not be ringing the birds because of bird flu.

Pat Brownbill asked if anyone was interested in producing a document like the lovely Ryde Cemetery brochure. Helen Stirling agreed to co-ordinate something similar for Heene Cemetery if people responded to her requests for content suggestions.

Sue Standing talked about dates for Open Days in 2024. The three dates she put forward are:

30/3/2024; 15/6/2024 and 28/9/2024. Sue also suggested a music soiree possibly from the Serenata Latin Jazz group.

Membership fees collection.

Fees were collected from 9 members and supporters, some donations given, and some Heene Cemetery Bramble jam bought.

The meeting was closed.