



Minutes of FoHC AGM 5th October 2024

Present:

Pat Brownbill, Maggi Martin, Sue Standing, Jane Tomlinson, Philippa Matthews, Angela White, Kevin Lavis, Carol Sullivan, Liz Lane, Angela Turner, Jean White, Dorothy Holmes, Tracy Ramsden, Leigh Lawson, Ivor Curtis, Anne Barker, John Brownbill, Eila Holroyd, Hayley Mcinnes, Rob Tomlinson

Apologies for absence from:

Helen Stirling, Beryl Docherty, Kay Jones, Angela Levy, Jackie Rooney, Chris Rooney

Chair Sue Standing, welcomed the members and supporters present.

Last year's minutes

Sue reported no review of last years minutes. Minutes accepted.

Chairpersons Report Sue Standing reported the talks have gone well, extra talks at History Group, Goring, Cameo (come and meet each other) Club and a history tour - not mentioned in the Chairs report.

Treasurers Report Pat Brownbill reported we spent less than we took in and 30% of the income was from memberships. Conservaton & Heritage Grant. New website will be a big saving of £800 p.a.

Membership Secretary Report Maggi Martin reported we have 32 members, made up of 16 conservationists, 8 researchers and 8 supporters.

Report accepted.

Election of Administrative roles (management committee members). Our Chair Sue Standing announces she will now be Chair in name only, but will Chair the next AGM, no longer attending committee meetings. The Chairpersons tasks to be divided up. This decision to divide tasks is welcomed.

Secretary role accepted by Angela White seconded by Rob Tomlinson

Treasurer role, Pat Brownbill to continue, accepted and seconded by Rob Tomlinson

Membership secretary, Maggie Martin to continue accepted and seconded by Rob Tomlinson

Election of organisational and advocacy roles

Heritage advocate accepted by Pat Brownbill and seconded by Rob Tomlinson

Fundraising Coordinator accepted by Sue Standing, seconded by All.

Volunteer Coordinators accepted by Kevin Lavis, Tracy Ramsden and Jane Tomlinson, Philippa Matthews to also be involved. Seconded by All

Environment advocate accepted by Rob Tomlinson, seconded by All. Others can also get involved as this will be a collaborative role.

Rob Tomlinson nominated as webmaster, seconded by Jane and accepted.

Green Flag Award Project Volunteer falls under the Volunteer coordinators/ Site Coordinator responsibilities. Sue Standing to forward relevant emails on.

Publicity Volunteer, accepted by Carol Sullivan, Sue Standing, James Oshogwe, Jane Tomlinson, Rob Tomlinson. Carol Sullivan already writes a bi-monthly article for Goring. Sue Standing writes the monthly Worthing Journal 220 words article. Philippa Matthews and Ivor Curtis expressed an interest in article writing.

The new dedication and species sponsorship scheme was explained by Pat Brownbill and Rob Tomlinson. A £5 one off payment to sponsor a species or buy a dedication with unique wording on the website. A species can have more than one sponsorship. All agreed this was a superb idea, lots of enthusiasm in sponsoring.

AOB

Following Open day dates decided.

5th April Open day, Heritage and Nature tours 13.30 start

14th June Open day, possible street walk, and ecology talk 10:30 start.

20th September Open day Heritage and Nature tours 10.30 start

8th November Remembrance Day

Sue Standing to investigate organising another soiree July/August. Philippa Matthews may be able to help with contacts.

Ivor Curtis may explore small theatre groups to come and perform and further work with children.

Kev Lavis spoke about using the space as a mental health haven after meeting a mental health worker on the last open day. Maybe Yoga and mindfulness. Not part of the fundraising but a community service, so free of charge. This could be a tie-up with a WSCC funded activity. Or social NHS prescribing. Pat Brownbill said there is possibility to apply for a grant. Kev Lavis to pursue further.

Anne Barker explained there are other groups exploring the idea of mental health and education, Rectory gardens, Feltham. safeguarding maybe an issue depending on the activity.

Sue Standing currently receives lots of emails as Chairperson and will start to distribute these out accordingly.

Tracy Ramsden knows the owner of the History shop in Worthing who may be interested in sponsoring us. Tracy also noticed that the local neighbours seem unaware of the open days and suggested leafleting, everyone in agreement. Sue has a contact for printing flyers.

Dogs were discussed as a safeguarding issue for the volunteers in the cemetery, for the public visiting and the upset of the wildlife in the cemetery, following a couple of incidents. A vote was taken on banning dogs. 14 members voted to ban, all others abstained. All volunteers present voted for the ban. Only two volunteers were absent. It was agreed a new council notice will be needed and the council contacted, which will take time. Tracy Ramsden suggested we leaflet a new dog policy statement to dog owners on arrival to warn them that on a chosen future date no dogs will be allowed. Rob Tomlinson noted that leaflets should be given to dog owners after the Council have confirmed that dogs are banned and there is a new Council notice stating this on the gate.

The committee agreed to write to the Council. It was noted that cemeteries in Brighton and Lancing have a no dog policy.

Rob Tomlinson to liaise with Liam the arborist.

Liz Lane informs us the Botolph Bell publication is now on-line only.

Carol Sullivan, Worthing Society, suggests a tour of Heene which receives a positive response.

Jean White presented Sue Standing with a card and basket of flowers with an Honorary life membership of FoHC to thank Sue for 9 years of dedication.

Membership fees collection.

No card machine was available for all Fees to be collected, another date to be decided, some donations given, and some Heene Cemetery Bramble Jam bought. Also, some species sponsorships were bought.

Meeting ended.

Minutes submitted by Angela White