

Friends of Headington Hill Park AGM
April 25th 2023
Headington Hill Hall, Oxford Brookes University
Minutes

Attendees:

Marion Ackrill, Philip Baker, Alison Boulton, Rudi Broekens, Rosemary Clayton, Christine Colbeck, David Colbeck, Jane Denby, Patrick Denby, Sarah Eckersley, Manuela Escarameia, Penny Gardner, Mike Gardner, Ian Gourlay, Julie Harrod, Helen Hewlett, Sophie Huxley, Robin Jones, Goldie Kailay, Harry Leafe, Nina O'Driscoll, John Marjot, Rosemary Pocock, Andrea Siret, Wendy Steyn, Emily Winkler, Jon Yates

Apologies for absence:

Judith Argles, Charlotte Bullock, Wendy Carlin, Stephen Kirby, Alison Murray, Cathy Pickin, Marie Power

*

Chairman Ian Gourlay offered everyone a warm welcome

*Approval of the minutes of AGM 26.4.22: unanimous

*Election and re-election of committee officers: unanimous

Ian Gourlay – Chairman

Treasurer – Helen Hewlett

Secretary – Marion Ackrill

Membership & online media – Patrick Denby

Committee member - John Marjot (publicity)

Committee member - Goldie Kailay (minutes/social)

FoHHP Constitution, modification of Clause 10c regarding the Friends funds and possessions if it were dissolved. These would be passed in whole, or shared between, Headington Action, Friends of South Park and/or Oxford Preservation Trust: unanimous

Chairman's report 2022/23

Ian Gourlay thanked all Friends who contributed financially and practically, and Brookes for the use of their splendid music room. He remembered Elizabeth Teague, a dedicated Friend who had sadly died in 2022. Additional thanks went to long-serving pillars of strength, now stepping down from committee: David Colbeck was appreciated for his leadership and tenacity including liaising with Oxford City Council and Brookes, getting our wonderful tree trail board designed and installed, and ordering additional tree labels alongside his Treasurer responsibilities: Chris Colbeck's consistent organisational support, often behind the scenes, was recognised, as was Alison Boulton's longstanding work and encouragement for the Friends. Marion Ackrill was thanked for all her hard practical work in the park. More volunteers on the ground would be very welcome, and we welcome the reclaimed street board on Headington Road for Friends use, thanks to Councillor Barbara Coyne's work on our behalf.

Treasurer's report and accounts 2022/23

David Colbeck reported the figures and current balance including P3 fund - £5,952: unanimously approved subject to audit.

Project statement

David Colbeck described the upcoming second information board, to include a blue tree trail and to be located near the upper Cuckoo Lane park entrance. He hoped to include results of possible civil war research/earthworks in the park. Oxford City Council plans to introduce its own welcome boards at the lower Cuckoo Lane park entrance, and at the St Clements entrance within the gates, at some stage. Additional possible projects are on hold, pending funds.

Volunteer Ranger/P3 report

Marion Ackrill described some of the practical work carried out to strengthen the park's outstanding character as an informal arboretum and attract more visitors & young volunteers through renovating park entrances. Increasing biodiversity, thanks to a plant fund of £6,565 from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, is the P3 – People, Plants, Pollinators! project, 2023.

Water source

Alison Boulton reported that she had made a successful request of neighbours Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OXCIS) for access to water. OXCIS very kindly installed pipework, box, hose and new padlock/keys for Friends to use for essential watering in the park.

Facebook invitation

Patrick Denby invited Friends to send stories, photos, insights, to him for the Facebook page, and to enjoy the much upgraded website.

Future events/AOB

10th Oxford Scouts/P3 planting session: 29.4.23

Guided walk by tree expert, Chairman Ian Gourlay: date tbc

Tree week/tree planting: December 2023

Talk by Ian Gourlay

We were treated to an interestingly varied account of the history of the park and of Headington Hill Hall. Ian highlighted the importance of continuing to plant new species, and to care for the existing @1000 special trees. The link with Brookes University, who lease the Headington Hill Hall site from Oxford City Council, could be effectively encouraged by a connecting path/gate. Ian concluded by thanking everyone for attending and inviting them to enjoy the drinks and canapes beautifully organised by Christine Colbeck.

MA