

Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

Annual General Meeting
Croquet Pavilion, Leven Terrace
26 June 2015 at 7.30pm

preceded by introduction to croquet and refreshments

Chair: Heather Goodare

1. Heather welcomed all 28 present (signed in)
Apologies: Andy Davenport; Richard Ellis (plus 6)

All present were requested to sign the attendance register.

2. *Minutes* of the last AGM already circulated were accepted as an accurate record.

3. *Annual Report 2014-15* was accepted, proposed by Brian Harris and seconded by Neil Roger

Matters arising from the 2015 annual report

4.1 Events on the Meadows: Underbelly-2 year contract; bar closes at 11.00.

4.2 Whalebone Arch: Graham Cruikshank reported on progress. Although a report was due 6 months ago he understood that the preserved arch will be re-erected in October.

An information board will be erected near to the arch providing its history as well as the background to its erection. (Alec Mann reported in more detail after the AGM)
Article to appear in next newsletter.

4.3 Charitable status to be granted no later than mid-July (reported by Nina)

4.4 BBQ issues: 3 MSPs have been written to - letters from them will be circulated to members. Volunteers should not be the ones who challenge people misusing BBQs; Park rangers must be made available late evening when most problems arise when weather is warm; Other UK parks have similar problems—eg Richmond Park have concerns for wildlife affected by smoke; 3 councillors contacted: two have replied; party size BBQs now for sale - these create more smoke and larger burns; Graham C noted that Scotmid display leaflets which highlight the need to use BBQs responsibly; agreed that better signs are needed—in particular clear NO BBQ signs where no BBQs are allowed (especially at golf course area).

4.5 Advertising Drums: Majority at MABLAG voted against them, but at the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership the final vote was in favour of their retention.

4.6 Treasurer: Thanks to Ron Carr who has taken over from Jennifer Thomson.

4.7 Website: thanks to Philip for doing a wonderful job.

4.8 Membership: each member to recruit at least one new member if at all possible: we need more members to make an impact on decisions that involve the Meadows.

5. *Annual Accounts:* Jennifer Thomson [Treasurer] is standing down and was thanked for all her hard work. Annual accounts: proposed as approved by Linda Hendry and seconded by Peter Upton. The membership voted to approve the accounts.

5. *Election of officers.* Heather stepped down as Convener, while the election of officers was chaired by Bridget Stevens. Heather Goodare was re-elected as Convener but stated that she was willing to serve only until November: nominated and proposed by Linda Hendry, seconded by Robin Morris, and carried by the membership.

Heather resumed the Chair: Ron Carr was elected treasurer, proposed by Jennifer Thomson, seconded by Ann Wigglesworth.

Nina Fedenczuk was elected secretary, proposed by Heather Goodare, and seconded by Ron Carr. The rest of the committee agreed to remain: Andy Devenport, Neil Roger, Alec Mann, Linda Hendry, all to be reelected: proposed Philip McDowell, seconded Robin Morris.

6. *Charitable status application*: Nina Fedenczuk reported that this should be finally approved by mid July at the latest.

7. Talk by Fernando Andrade Miranda about plans for the north end of Middle Meadow Walk, where he has a Police Box cafe. Fernando's talk was very well received. He has been able to involve passers-by, even those with various mental health and social needs, in working on improvements to this area, which he illustrated with a short video presentation.

8. AOCB

As many volunteers as possible are needed for work party on 27 June, starting at 10.00 a.m.

The unveiling by Cllr Lesley Hinds was announced of a tree plaque to commemorate the founding of the Friends of Edinburgh Parks, to take place near the Barclay Viewforth Church on 27th July at 6.00 pm. Audrey Simon was thanked for making it possible: all are welcome to the unveiling.

Alec Mann (Membership Secretary) encouraged people to renew their membership at the meeting —although standing order is best.

Jimmy Robertson suggested that in our revised constitution, the environment should be treated as a priority —ie item 1 not item 2. Heather to check.

Peter Upton voiced his concern that long grass areas have been cut too soon and should be left until Sept/Oct to encourage/protect wildlife (insects for birds etc). Alistair Philp noted that a wild flower meadow has been earmarked for Warrender Park Terrace. He also thought a lot of people (who didn't realise the effect on wildlife?) wanted the long grass cut.

It was suggested that a derelict telephone box should be removed.

Fernando said there is a police box group who will hold a police box festival (there is a map showing all police boxes).

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 9.30 pm.

Minutes: Nina Fedenczuk and Neil Roger