



Friends of Parkinson's Park Annual General Meeting

May 4th 2016

Fellowship Room, Methodist Church, Guiseley

In Attendance:

Jennifer Kirkby, Chris Parapia, David Myers, Nicola Denson, Anne ?, Hilary Taylor, Barbara Winfield, Ann vande Kastele, Martin Hornsby Smith, Andy Cheetham, Vivian Hornsby-Smith

Apologies:

Colin Alexander, Josie Brookes

Minutes from Last Year:

The minutes from last year were presented and agreed.

Chairpersons Annual Report:

Chris Parapia provided an annual report. She outlined the FOPP organised events that have taken place, which were numerous. Below are some of these events that took place.

- Children's Gala
- Heritage Lottery Walk
- Lantern Parade
- Bulb Planting
- Gardening and litter picking workshops
- Clean for the Queen
- Visits by the Scouts
- Visits by local School Children
- Litter free Guiseley litter picking

Chris also referenced all of the local organisations that FOPP has interacted with and where there has been mutual support. Below are some of those local organisations.

Open Country
Litter free Guiseley
Guiseley in Bloom
Guiseley Community Choir
Leeds City Council
Scouts and Guides
Leeds Parks and Forum
Dry Stone Wallers
The Farmers Market
Local Churches including The Baptists, The Methodists and St Oswalds
The Royal Horticultural Society
The Station Pub
Voluntary action Leeds

Chris explained the goal is for it to be everyone's Park. We have noticed that usage of the Park is going up which is good because a higher usage means a natural policing of the park. Guiseley Litter pickers described it as an oasis compared to other parts of Guiseley.

We are now working on the future and considering the next stage in the Park's history. In March we created an incorporated organisation, "Friends of Parkinson's Park CIC". Our plan is that the new incorporate organisation will become owners of the Park. A local solicitor, Andrew Price, is helping us in this pursuit for free. He is working with Paul Miller from Bellways and things are progressing at a reasonable pace according to Andrew. We are hopeful ownership will be complete this year.

Anne is leaving the area and hence will no longer be involved. She was thanked for all of the help she provided and was presented with a gift and a card.

Chris stated that this year we will continue with the Children's Gala and the Christmas Lantern parade. In addition, she stated that we have permission to go ahead with a bog garden and Open Country will be back to make an assessment and do the work.

Leeds Parks and Open Spaces forum may be able to help us with the park. Holly Ramsden from TCV is coming to look at it on Friday this week.

Fund Raising Officer's Report:

Fundraising has been successful this year. There is still money out there for for organisations such as ourselves. We already have funding for the two main events that we want to do, being The Children's Gala and The Lantern Parade. The funding we received in the previous 12 months are:

May 2015, Leeds Inspired, £551.00 - Lantern Parade
July 2015, NoFe Horticultural Society, £984 - bog garden
July 2015, Community Committee Small Grant, £500.00 - Children's Gala 2015

Feb 2016, Galaxy Hot Chocolate, £300.00 - Lantern Parade

Feb 2016, Sports Relief Community Cash, £710.00 - Children's Gala 2016

Review of 2016/2017 objectives:

It was stated that one of the purposes of the meeting was to end the unincorporated organisation that was started in 2011 and to announce and start the new incorporated organisation, "Friends of Parkinson's Park CIC". A community interest company.

We have a community interest statement that we are now going to have to report against on annual basis. Some of the activities from that statement were stated:

Provide a well maintained, public landscape park that is consistent with its setting on the west flank of The Chevin – part of the South Pennines Natural Characteristic Area. We will ensure the Park conserves its social, cultural and ecological heritage – including its early medieval lynchets, and acid grassland. We have to maintain and develop the Park in the interests of the health and well-being of the local community.

Develop features in the Park to suit the health and wellbeing needs of the local community, develop biodiversity, provide horticultural experience eg community orchard, and meet standards for accessibility.

To use the Park as a setting for regular Community Events that create community spirit eg a traditional Children's Gala, and a Christmas Lantern Parade. To also allow the use of the Park for community events run by other organizations eg Summer Playschemes.

To provide the means to generate a variety of income streams to ensure the viability of the Company in carrying out these activities.

It was noted that we cannot do any real development until it is our land. For example, paths and signage cannot go ahead. However, we can continue with routine maintenance E.g. working on the entrances.

Treasurer's Annual Report:

A copy of the report was presented and it was accepted. The accounts had been examined by Tony King who had "signed them off".

Local Giving was mentioned where you can donate on line and there is something called "match funding". If someone donates 10 pounds then "match funding" will donate another 10 pounds. There is also tax relief on money donated meaning a single donation can potential more than double.

Review of Friends status:

Now we are community interest company, there will be two supporters groups:

- The friends
- The “members

Martin read out what was required of Members as part of the Company Limited by Guarantee. There would also be a Friends scheme for those who wanted to support the Park. Members would be invited to General Meetings and would be able to vote. Friends would be invited to the AGM, but would not have a vote.

When recruiting either new friends or members we would like people with skills that could contribute but we are also happy to have people who just want to enjoy the Park.

We will continue to run as a Management Committee made up of members and Directors. In essence operations will continue as we have been prior to the new organisation being formed. There will be regular Management Committee meetings, there will also be more formal meetings with all of the members. There will be an AGM where Directors, Members and Friends will be invited.

Winding up FOPP as an unincorporated organisation:

The original unincorporated organisation was wound up and all those who have contributed were thanked.

The Directors of the newly formed company are now responsible for the Park. All of the directors are also members and the members acts as a guarantor for the debts, the liability for each member is one pound.

We have drawn up a constitution which can be found on the Web Site.

Voting:

Barbera proposed all of the items on the agenda and these were seconded by Martyn Hornsby Smith

Date of Next Meeting:

Early May next Year.