



Minutes of the Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens (FOSAWG) AGM held on 19th March 2024 5.30-7pm

Present:-

FOSAWG Committee Members:

Pippa Smith (Chair)

Linda Austin (Secretary)

Cliff Robinson (Treasurer)

Juliette Bidwell

Melanie Davis

Alison Dean

Annie Mitchell,

Helen Snowden

FOSAWG general members:

Chris Baines-Holmes, Sally Bramall, Betsy Brewer, Gabriel Cohen, Tina Dean, Kim Harrison-Lavoie, Juliette Hunting, Carrie Lambe, Don Lavoie, Carole Moorhouse, Jim Orford, Christine Payne, Kris Phillips, Nicholas Pryor, Sue Tatton-Brown, Marilyn Wallach, Jill Williams .

Apologies: Janet Clough

1. Welcome

Pippa welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting was approved as quorate.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes of the AGM held on 15th March 2023 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. Guest Speaker – Liz Davies

Pippa introduced Liz Davies, BHCC CityParks Parks Projects Team Officer, as guest speaker. Liz spoke about the recent progress in the Sensory Garden and elsewhere in the gardens. These include the installation of a new pergola and wet pour area in front of the Shelter, jointly funded with the Friends. In addition, new bike racks have been installed near the Café. Liz went on to talk about the latest Park Development Plan consultation process. Consultation meetings had been held in December and January, and the Friends are being involved in the next stages of the process. The aim is that by 20230 St Ann's Well Gardens will be a Place to Go, A Place to be, and a Place to Grow.

5. Annual Report & Finances

Pippa introduced the Annual Report for 2023, which had been a year of achievements and challenges. The creation and installation of the Dovecot sculpture had been a highlight as had the grant from Martin Investment Limited, which will go towards signage. In addition we had gained the S&SEiB It's Your Neighbourhood award as "Outstanding" for the second year running. The big challenge for much of the year had been anti-social behaviour, especially in the Sensory Garden.

Cliff reported that continued financial support was provided by our members, sponsors, and funding partners during 2023. This provided a firm financial basis to allow us to progress a wide range of activities and initiatives during the year. The overall position at the year-end 2023 shows that undesignated General Fund reserves stand at a healthy £8.8k allowing us to confidently face the difficult financial situation expected in 2024.

6. Election of Officers & Committee

Pippa Smith was elected Chair.

Cliff Robinson was elected Treasurer.

Linda Austin was elected Secretary.

Juliette Bidwell, Melanie Davis, Alison Dean, Annie Mitchell and Helen Snowden were elected as Trustees to the Committee.

7. Discussion of Priorities

There was a wide-ranging discussion of activities for the next year including ideas for members nights, and also wildlife events.

The future plans for the Sensory Garden were also discussed.

8. Working Groups

Pippa reminded the meeting that we need lots of volunteers for the working groups and events, and asked people to sign-up.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 7.00 pm