

FRIENDS of WALKDEN GARDENS

15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 11th July 2016

In attendance:-

G Jones (Chair), Y Cockayne (Mins Sec), Gill Jones (acting Treasurer), Nic Redman, J Baugh, L Gaulton, P Maitra, B Brotherton, P Baugh, J Jones, A Moran, A Sant, K Meredith, W Rhodes, L Biscoe, P Evans, V Richardson, T Mannion, J Mannion, M Little, C Gaulton, A Barnaby, S Hirst, J Fogg, G Peel, P Coulburn

Apologies:

R Frier, I. Davies

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Garth Jones greeted everyone to the meeting and before starting the meeting officially, went through the emergency evacuation procedure for St Anne's Church Hall. He explained the reason for the last minute change of venue and expressed his delight in seeing so many present.

2. Minutes of previous AGM

Distributed and approved.

3. Matters arising

None

4. ANNUAL REPORTS

a) Chairman – Garth Jones

- i. Many people have worked very hard on the Tranquil Garden this past year and it is now nearing completion. A special thanks was extended to members of the committee and particularly Peter Baugh for his years as 'temporary' treasurer. He left the post around the beginning of the year, but thanks to Gill Jones and Nic Redman we have had acting joint treasurers looking after the funds since. In addition, Garth thanked Les Gaulton for his continuing maintenance of the fences and Rob Frier and events committee for all their hard work. A special mention was made of Inflatable Flix, a pop up cinema which came to the Gardens since the last AGM. Despite the first showing being in the middle of a downpour, the night was a great success and they have returned earlier in this year and will be showing again in August.
- ii. One Trafford is a new business borne out of the re-organisation of TMBC and the need to put services to tender, Amey being the partner of choice. Dave Rome is still our link with the council and Mike Girling has remained our gardener, although very recently he has become part of a team of three, covering Walton Park as well as Walkden gardens. Garth asked for comments (good or bad) from the membership as the new process unfolds, bearing in mind that budgets have been cut severely and there will be changes to embrace.

b) Events – In the absence of Rob, Garth invited comments from the floor to feed back to him.

- i. Peter Baugh mentioned the contribution to FOWG by Folksy Theatre and how very supportive they are, giving us 30% of their takings.
- ii. A comment was made about advertising, in that it seems sparse with little prominence. Garth advised that visiting theatre groups and entertainers tend to take control of their own advertising, providing us with a banner only for the railings. Peter Baugh's astronomy group advertise their events through pamphlets hand delivered to the local community. Two thousand pamphlets for £80 was considered well worth the investment. Also the use of Twitter was recommended too – we do have a Twitter account. All food for thought.
- iii. A complaint about the small font size on the website was raised.

c) Garden – Penny Maitra

Penny remarked how pleased she was to see so many of the volunteer gardeners at the meeting. She was delighted with the progress of the Tranquil gardens and thanked everyone involved.

d) Treasurer’s Report – Gill Jones

The account year runs from 1st February of one year, to 31st January of the following year. On the 1st February 2015 the balance stood at £11,456.82, whereas on 31st January it was £11,550.35, plus £86.30 worth of donations in a PayPal account and £18.23 in petty cash. Grand total was, therefore, £11654.88. Our biggest fundraiser is the Christmas event, followed by the contribution from Folksy Theatre (see para. b(i) above).

5. Election of Officers

The following individuals were proposed and seconded to be re-elect existing officers for the next 12 months.

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| Chairman | Garth Jones |
| Vice-Chairman | Rob Frier |
| Joint Treasurers | Gill Jones and Nic Redman |
| Minutes Sec. | Yan Cockayne |
| Other Members | P Maitra, and L Gaulton |

Cllr Jane Baugh and Cllr Barry Brotherton were invited to continue attending the committee meetings.

6. Questions and comments from the floor

- a) It was reported that paving stone thieves are out and about in the district again.
- b) The pathway from the road to the scout hut is looking very tired. Cllr. Brotherton advised that the scouts and he had been trying to find out who is responsible for its maintenance, but to no avail. He added that it is becoming increasingly more difficult these days to make contact with appropriate people at the council, even for a councillor.
- c) Peter Baugh told the meeting of a recent visit to a garden on the Franco/German border, where a very interesting and successful method of walkways exist. It was with the use of boardwalks and gravel; he thought this might be imported into Walkden Gardens, particularly as the latter has suffered so much with the effects of so much rain.

The meeting closed at 20.05 hrs and after a short break, the evening continued with a ‘garden’ quiz, devised and presented by Nic Redman.