

Chairman
Mr R R Bennett



Secretary
Miss L Wilkins

Treasurer
Miss A Noble

www.pannettpark.co.uk

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Friends of Pannett Park (including Little Park)

23rd March 2016 4 pm in the Pannett Art Gallery

Present - Bob Bennett, Linda Sims, Linda Wilkins, Chris Roe, Gill Wood, Ron Wood, Anne Noble, Amanda Smith, Kath Horsley, Steve Smith, PCSO Ann Burton.

1. Apologies - Sorrel Hinchliffe, Walter Turner, Joe Plant.
2. Minutes of the Friends of Pannett Park Open Meeting, 21st October 2015
The minutes were agreed correct, to be put on the website.
Reports from the meeting to be sent to trustees.
3. Minutes of the Pannett Park Management Committee meetings, 7th October, 4th November, 25th November 2015 & 6th January, 3rd February 2016.
The minutes were presented to the meeting.
They had been available on the website.
4. Police Report

PCSO Ann Burton reported -

There are regular walks through the park by PCSOs. No recent reports of antisocial behaviour.

Any incidents in the park are reported and logged.

It may be useful to invite police to attend some management meetings in future.
Lowering the CCTV camera at the Lily Pool is in hand with SBC.

Chairman's Report

Bob Bennett reported -

The Halloween event went ahead as usual despite less than favourable weather. The attendees enjoyed themselves and we all got wet. The PNSA put on two great stoic performances before being totally rained off from the third performance.

Once again thanks to Kath & Linda for decorating our NEW tree for the St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Pannett Park angels put in an appearance at the Churches Together Kidzfest at Eskdale School in December. The exercise proved to be highly enjoyable.

Linda, Anne, Kath and myself met some delightful people of all ages and made a few new contacts in the process.

Switching on the lights on the Christmas tree on December the 9th with the usual mulled wine and Christmas cake was a pleasant interlude.

Christmas lunch was at Victoria Farm as we no longer have the luxury of a museum café. This was another enjoyable occasion with the added bonus of someone else getting to do the tidying up.

We made a decision to transfer the FPP insurance for 2016 to one provided by the RHS through NFU. It offers better value for money and still covers what we need.

The "Art in the Park" leaflet is progressing well and the first draft was well received. Marcus is now working on the final details. John Freeman generously donated the drawings which will make the leaflet something really special. He suggests that we sell the original drawings to boost funds Linda has her eye on one she would like to buy already! Give it some thought, the Friends have first choice.

Now we have re-joined the RHS we get a free group visit and had decided to go to Harlow Carr Gardens on May 19th. My plan is to visit Betty's café as often as possible but you might have more horticultural aims. Cost of coach £10. However this is likely to be Green Flag judging day so the date will have to be changed.

The Park is again entered in Yorkshire in Bloom, for 2016.

The Clock success board & Ammonites time lines have been updated this year. We are awaiting delivery from Vinyl Signs.

We celebrated three birthdays at Cosa Nostra in February, Linda Sim's, & Robert Elliott Pannett and mine on the 6th, 7th and 8th of the month respectively.

Highlights for me involve the social occasions where we meet and eat. Fish & chips after this meeting, breakfast at Victoria Farm when we put up our display and a hopeful afternoon tea at Perry's during the summer.

Maintenance work slowed down over the winter but re-started this morning with an attempt to clean the clock face.

Pergola repairs have been carried out after various bits of timber work had fallen off due to shoddy workmanship but these have now been replaced and secured mechanically instead of depending on adhesive.

Plans for Easter in the Park are well under way. The PNSA play sounds delightful.

And our most recent and very exciting news is the award of "Love Parks Event of the Year" for Pannett Day 2015. Thank you to everyone who contributed to us winning this very prestigious national award (it all developed from Gill & Ron being nominated for volunteer of the year at the awards last year) and thank you to Anne & Liz for attending the glittering event in Nottingham with lovely dinner and great entertainment, to collect our trophy.

Everything we achieve in the park is through partnership and I would like to thank Chris Roe and his park staff for all their hard work and the support they give to the Friends. As ever a huge thank you must go to all the volunteer gardeners.

Anne Noble gave more detail about the Love Parks conference and awards -

Thursday 17th March 2016 at Shire Hall in Nottingham.

Buffet lunch followed by speakers from: Tesco Bags of Help, HLF, Groundwork, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum, National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces, Growing a Greener Britain, KBT Eco Schools project, National Citizen's Service. Workshops on Inspiring young people, mainly a sharing of ideas, and Funding, detailed notes written up for future reference.

The awards evening began with a reception and excellent dinner, followed by the presentations by Chris Worman, Senior Green Flag judge, and the Sheriff of Nottingham. There were nine awards in all & Pannett Day 2015 won -

LOVE PARKS WEEK EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sponsored by Love Parks Week, 10 Year Anniversary

A special, designated award to mark the 10th anniversary of Love Parks Week and recognise the contribution of a specific event and the respective park and group.

5. Assistant Operations Officer's Report

Chris Roe reported -

The winter has been kind to the park this year with not much in the way of snow however plenty of wind and rain.

We had some fairly strong gales throughout the winter which caused some minor damage and the loss of three small trees, one close to the Commemorative Garden and two on St Hilda's Terrace.

We continue to monitor the trees, particularly those looking less than perfect. We had four trees donated over the winter period, so thanks to all those families concerned. It is always a pleasure to work with these families.

Our long running saga over the parks apprentice finally concluded with the appointment of Lewis Hainsworth. Good luck to him.

The proposed bedding changes took place in November. The new bed shapes work really well with the golden holly globes and were well received.

We did lose a nice cotoneaster. However we replaced it with three new ones.

We have had a few instances with drugs, alcohol & litter, these are all reported to NYP.

We took part in two enrichment days with Caedmon College, talking to over 200 students over the two days.

We had an excellent training day at Manor Road Nurseries, with further ones planned at Hills at Stokesley, Victoria Farm Garden Centre, a return to Manor Road and of course in the park.

HLF spending is on track, with a small amount of surplus, which will be spent by 2019.

We have changed the way the Community Garden works. The bed will be planted up and used as a training resource, with voluntary groups invited to attend regular dates which will be advertised, Thursday afternoons.

Unfortunately we are not getting the groups in to run the beds themselves.

The asbestos in the boiler room has now been dealt with & SBC staff are again able to use the cellar area.

6. Volunteer Gardener's Report

Gill Wood reported -

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener October 2015 - March 2016

October 2015 cont.

Work was carried out on St. Hilda's Terrace, herbaceous planting tidied & rose pruning started. The Rose Garden was weeded & edged off in preparation for the Halloween event.

November 2015.

A very mild, often windy month with periods of rain. Rose pruning was completed. The herbaceous borders were tidied again. Tulip bulbs were planted in the bedding displays, & 5x25kg bags of Narcissus 'Carlton' were planted on the wild embankment. The Cornus were tidied up for their winter display. Irises were tidied. The Community Garden was cleared & the plants composted. The summer jasmine was pruned. More work was carried out on St. Hilda's terrace & at the main gates. The external rose beds were weeded & edged off.

December 2015.

The information boards were cleaned & Commemorative Garden weeded. Leaves were raked off Peony Steps & all hellebores had their old foliage removed to reveal emerging new foliage & flower buds. Perennial geraniums were cut back. As a nice change table decorations were made one morning. Battered *Stipa gigantea* was tidied up, leaves raked up & a couple of brown branches were pruned out from the big *Araucaria* in the Jurassic Garden.

January 2016.

Drenching rain & strong winds were followed by cold, wintry weather later in the month. Some tree branches were lost due to wind, also a hawthorn on St. Hilda's Terrace. Work resumed when conditions allowed on the herbaceous borders & twin rockeries. Leaves were cleared. Hollies on the embankment were tidied up. All ferns were cut back. The nest boxes were checked & overhauled. The noticeboards were cleaned & some general weeding carried out.

February 2016.

Shrub pruning was undertaken in various areas. The clematis were pruned & tied in & climbing roses checked. The bed in the Community Garden was cleared & suckers removed from hollies & the herb garden was assessed, tidied & plans made. Play area planting was tidied & general tidying carried out. A visit to the nursery at Manor Road was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

March 2016.

Often cold, wet & windy with the occasional day of glorious sunshine. Pond 'weed' was carefully raked from the lily pool & left at the side of the pool to allow any wildlife to return. This was found to be a less disruptive way of clearing debris from the pool without draining it. Sucker removal continued in various areas. At the lily pool *Phormiums* were groomed, *buddleia* & *escallonia* pruned, & the area at the back of the pool tidied. 1000 *Eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite) in the green were planted in the winter border & the *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' were given their annual prune.

Volunteer hours since end Sept 2015 total 360, none of which would be possible without the support of the SBC team.

8. Friends Events in the |Park

Easter in the Park, Wednesday 30th March

Play script received from PNSA.

To check with YCH their craft activities do not clash with Bloom's.

Pannett Day, Wednesday 27th July

Yorkshire in Bloom judging - July

9. Date of next meeting

AGM, Wednesday 22nd June 2016, 4 pm, Pannett Art Gallery