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Chairman
Mr R R Bennett

Secretary
Miss L Wilkins

Treasurer
Miss A Noble

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Friends of Pannett Park
(including Little Park)
27th March 2019 4 pm in the Normanby Room

Present - Bob Bennett, Gill Wood, Ron Wood, Linda Wilkins, Keith Wright,
Linda Sims, Anne Noble, Heather Coughlan, Sorrel Hinchliffe.

1. **Apologies** - Nigel Dixon, Sandra Turner, Kath Horsley, Chris Roe,
Joe Plant, Roger Parsons, Lynne Brunskill.
2. **Minutes of the Open Meeting 17th October 2018.**
These were agreed correct.
3. **Minutes of the Pannett Park Management Committee meetings, on 3rd October,
7th November, 28th November, 2018 and 3rd January, 6th February 2019.**
The minutes were presented to the meeting.
They had been available on the website.
4. **FPP Report** - Bob Bennett reported -

October 2018 to March 2019

In October we received a 'Muck & Magic' award for our herbaceous borders.
Once again we celebrated Halloween in the park, with the usual spooky undertones, stalls and games. As ever we were ably supported by the Paul Nicholas School of Acting.

In November Amanda gave Dementia Awareness training.
Pippa organised a Treasure Hunt for volunteers, in both park and museum, followed by lunch, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.
FPP again helped to steward the WTC Lantern Parade.

In December we had the now traditional Christmas tree in park, kindly donated by Lord Normanby. This year the Fairy Lights were officially switched on by Mr. and Mrs Roe, after which we all indulged in Mrs. Roe's equally traditional Christmas cake and mince pies. All of which was washed down with Linda's mulled wine.

Christmas dinner was again at The Penny Hedge, the companionship was delightful, as ever. Kath and Linda decorated the FPP Christmas tree in St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks to Caedmon College we had new tree decorations, in the form of snow flakes, ivy leaves, holly leaves and a new batch of gold and silver 'Eternal Gardeners'. The usual FPP ecard was sent to all of our supporters.

In early 2019 we renewed the FPP insurance, with NFU through the RHS.

Aviva funding of £200 was awarded towards our "Poetry in the Park" Scrolls.

The Big Garden Bird Watch was completed, thanks to Geoff.

The advertisement was re-submitted for the Park & Ride bus and the Pannett Park leaflet was reprinted.

Thanks go to Walter Turner for tackling the annual Bird Box clean out.

FPP socialised with breakfast at Penny Clare and dinner at 'Jasmine's'

In March we decided to have the seven oak benches along the front of the museum professionally bead blasted to remove years of old paint.

Steve Iredale is currently working on the new 'Equinox' sculpture.

The newly painted urns on the terrace are showing signs of rust and I am currently in negotiation with the company who provided the paint.

The Friends have entered Yorkshire in Bloom in the new category, C6, for volunteer groups.

As ever, everything we achieve in the park is through partnership and I would like to thank Chris Roe, Keith Wright and the park staff for all their hard work and the support they give to the Friends.

And of course a huge thank you must go to all the volunteer gardeners.

WTC expressed thanks to all gardeners, SBC & volunteers, for their work in the park, which always looks beautiful.

6. **SBC Report** - Keith Wright reported -

In October strong winds caused some minor damage.

Spring bedding plants were purchased from Pentland Plants and due to the extremely dry weather needed watering.

We were all sad to hear of the death of Ron Whatling, Green Flag judge and friend of the park. We are discussing how to spend money donated to the park in his memory, possibly snakes head frittilaria.

Planting in November included replacement roses, hyacinths in bedding & on the Commemorative Garden rockery, Cornus controversa variegata, Linda's birthday tree, Salix caprea, Ron's goat willow & Fagus sylvatica purpurea, the SBC WW1 memorial tree, planted by Cllr Joe Plant, Borough Mayor.

It was decided to change the organisation of the horticultural sub group & no longer hold regular meetings but convene the group if necessary.

A metal sculpture of Louis the peacock was installed.

The lily pool pump was removed for the winter.

Maintenance work in the new year saw a bench being replaced in Little Park, a litter bin replacement, repairs in the play area & teak litter bin cages for the play area. The lily pool had it's annual clean & additional lilies were planted. The Community Garden bed was reshaped.

Four trees were planted during February: Acer griseum, Paper bark maple, donated by Mr Watts, A. capillipes and Metasequoia glyptstroboides "GoldRush" near the lily pool as replacement for the tree which is to be felled, & Acer pseudoplatanus brilliantissimum, donated by Mrs Skelton, in Little Park. The azaleas in the beds at the cottage have been replaced by Hydrangea King George. Armeria on the main drive border have been replaced by Heuchera.

The park will be judged as part of Whitby's entry in Britain in Bloom, in August. Green Flag judging 2019 will be by a mystery shopper. Police are working with the adult drinkers with dogs who caused problems last year. Lack of CCTV coverage at the lily pool is being investigated.

A new apprentice, Otis Bailey, has been appointed & starts on 1st April.

Thanks were expressed to the volunteers for their contribution to the park.

7. Volunteer Gardener's Report - Gill Wood reported - Notes from a Volunteer Gardener October 2018 to March 2019

October. The sunny, mild autumn weather came to an end with polar winds & wintery showers. Twin rockeries, St. Hilda's Terrace border, Harry Eatough's rose bed & Peony Steps were weeded, tidied & leaves raked off. Pruning of climbing roses was completed & Buddleia pruned. Watering of recent planting continued.

November. Roses were pruned by half to prevent winter wind rock & leaves cleared, Rose Garden, Aqligea rockery & Play area beds were weeded & beds edged off. There was no let up in watering of the recent planting. Hyacinth bulbs were planted in the bedding displays.

December. The climbers were checked for wind damage & rose pruning completed. Bagdale Steps area, herbaceous borders, Jubilee Gate area were weeded & tidied & leaves cleared. Watering of new planting ceased for the first time since last March. A cosy morning was spent in the tool shed making table decorations.

January 2019. Work recommenced on the 8th after a short break, the winter having been mild & dry so far. Herbaceous planting was cut back in all areas, the Community Garden cleared & wisteria pruned. Climbers were checked for wind displacement. Weeding was carried out in the Rose Garden, Twin Rockeries, Jurassic Garden & herbaceous borders. Ferns were cut back & weeded & tidied. Planting at the wildlife pond was tidied. We welcomed a new volunteer to the group. Cold, wintry showers towards the end of the month.

February. Rose Garden weeded & edged off & pruning of late summer flowering clematis carried out. The herb garden was weeded & garlic planted. Paths edged off, deciduous grasses cut back & compost spread on the vegetable plot. St. Hilda's Terrace border was weeded & leaves cleared from the Floral Clock, which was also edged off & dead-headed. Paths edged off. Sedum dead-headed & digitalis planted at Peony Steps.

March. Path edging off was completed, the little pond maintained & herbaceous border maintenance continued. The Lily Pool area was weeded & fuchsia, Cornus & Ceratostigma pruned. Bedding display weeded & edged off & a clematis was transplanted from the museum wall where it was compromising wisteria. Jurassic rockery weeded & suckers from Rhus typhina removed. Hydrangeas were pruned & weekly watering of new planting started.

Bins, boards & seats were cleaned as required throughout the winter..

Volunteer Gardening hours -

Oct. 2018 to Feb.2019: 643

From 2005: 18,525.

As always a big thank you to the SBC team for their continuing support.

8. **Dates to note**

Visit to RHS Harlow Carr - Wednesday 10th April

Great British Spring Clean - Tuesday 16th April

Easter in the Park - Wednesday 24th April

Pannett Day - Wednesday 24th July

July - Yorkshire in Bloom judging

August - Britain in Bloom judging

9. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 26th June 2019, 4pm, Normanby Room