

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)

18th October 2017 4 pm in the Normanby Room

Present - Bob Bennett, Gill Wood, Ron Wood, Linda Wilkins, Chris Roe,
Anne Noble, Heather Coughlan, Nigel Dixon.

1. Apologies - Linda Sims, Sandra Turner, Kath Horsley, Sorrel Hinchliffe.
2. Minutes of the Open Meeting 29th March 2017
These had been agreed correct at the AGM & are available on the website.
3. Minutes of the Pannett Park Management Committee meetings, on 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September 2017.
The minutes were presented to the meeting.
They had been available on the website.
4. Chairman's Report - Bob Bennett reported -

In July we received our 8th KBT Green Flag, a very significant achievement, & in Yorkshire in Bloom our 5th consecutive Yorkshire Rose Gold Award. We heard about Green Flag Heritage status when we attended the awards ceremony in Hull & are investigating applying for that next year.

Easter in the Park 2017 was a wet & miserable day but our faithful supporters turned out regardless. Sadly I had to bid farewell to Elliott the very large Easter Bunny

We have had useful training visits to Sledmere Walled Garden, Burnby Hall & Scampston Walled Garden, all of which proved inspirational. In particular for Union Steps Rockery planting plans.

Maintenance tasks, included teak oiling benches, removing some areas of rot and replacing with sound timber, repairing vandal damage and pressure washing the clock face & the commemorative garden.

Dahlia mignon were grown in the Community Garden for a Citizen Science project, to find what colour flowers bees prefer.

Sampling the vegetables in the community vegetable patch proved popular with visitors. Green tomatoes were used to make "Pannett Park Pickle".

We took the opportunities to publicise the park at both the Muck & Magic Fair In Scarborough & Armed Forces Day in Whitby. Whitby Amateur Dramatic Society offered us a free advert in their programme for the October production, which we gratefully accepted. We hope to place an advert in all their programmes next year. Raven Hall Hotel have requested and been sent information about the park & photographs to include on their website.

Pannett Day 2017 went extremely well, on the rearranged date, we have not been lucky with the weather this year, and we were joined by Yorkshire Coast Homes, Whitby Community Connections, Whitby Christian Fellowship, the U3A recorder ensemble, Pannett Art Gallery & Whitby Museum, all offering free activities for young visitors. The Friends put on a range of fun games at low cost with small prizes, all making an affordable day out for families. We were given a large quantity of Auracaria seeds & managed to persuade some people to have a go at growing their own Whitby Jet! Yet another extremely successful day with lots of people discovering what the park has to offer. Entrants in our Yorkshire Quiz were fiercely competitive, with Sheila Parker being the winner of Keith's now famous photograph.

The clock interpretation board has been updated to explain the Jubilee clock.

Everyone was thrilled when Gill & Ron Wood received the Chair's Bloomin' Community Champion award at the Whitby in Bloom presentation evening and very well deserved too.

We were delighted to receive a donation to purchase 1000 Narcissus Actaea for Little Park. In addition we have ordered 1000 Narcissus Mount Hood & 2 bags of Narcissus Carlton for the banks in the park.

Just last week we were awarded a Muck & Magic certificate for the Art in the Park trail.

Recently we welcomed the Friends of Falsgrave Park for a walk round the park & a very useful exchange of ideas & the Friends of Southcliff Gardens are visiting on 8th November.

A project for the winter is to set up a book exchange in the Community Garden. As an Aviva customer Linda was invited to nominate a community project & chose this. There is an automatic £200 to projects nominated by policy holders & then it goes to a public vote for how additional money is allocated.

Everyone is delighted by the new tea room. It is such an asset to the venue.

As ever, everything we achieve in the park is through partnership and I would like to thank Chris Roe and his team for all their hard work and the support they give to the Friends. Also to Whitby Town Council, our trustees, for their support. As ever a huge thank you must go to all the volunteer gardeners, the ranks of which, I am happy to say, are increasing.

5. SBC Report - Chris Roe reported -

It's been another great year for the park, being awarded our 8th Green Flag & our 5th consecutive Yorkshire in Bloom gold award.

The park was also judged as part of the Whitby entry in Britain in Bloom.

A lot of hard work went into preparation for judging & the success was down to partnership between SBC & FPP.

Stone pillars to create proper entrances to the park from Chubb Hill, where there are currently just gaps in the hedge, are to be built.

At a recent tree inspection, Alan Thomlinson, SBC tree officer, identified some Cupressus macrocarpa which need careful monitoring & may need to be felled within the next few years. There is a possibility of additional chain saw carvings. Two large ash stumps may need reducing as they are deteriorating. Funding has been secured from SBC to replace any felled trees, although they could be different species in different places.

There has been some vandalism, mainly minor, & also drug related activities near the Lily Pool, we work closely with the police on this. Please use 101 to report any incidents.

6. Volunteer Gardener's Report - Gill Wood reported -

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener, June - October 2017

June. Herbaceous planting was tidied & dead-headed in borders & rockeries. A Lonicera was moved from the museum wall to Godbolds Arch to bulk up the planting & the white Wisteria which turned out to be purple will be moved to the main drive & grown as a standard.

July. Wind & rain resulted in loss of gardening hours at the start of the month. Climbers were tied in with particular attention to the climbing roses which flowered & grew prolifically. The clematis needed less attention once flowering started. Bagdale rockery was weeded, also Aquilegia rockery. Edging off started in earnest for Yorkshire in Bloom judging, work was carried out at the lily pool & herbaceous planting cut back where it had gone over. Roses were dead-headed. The judging route was given particular attention in the preceding 10 days with the team working extra hours: And 2 weeks later we did it all again for Britain in Bloom judging. The park was presented to a very high standard on both occasions.

August. The Community Garden & the South Seas Garden were weeded & tidied, new wisteria trained & herbaceous planting cut back where finished. Climbers were tended throughout the month & irises tidied up. The Rose Garden was spruced up for Pannett Day & work continued on St. Hilda's Terrace border. The Community Garden continued to crop well. Weeding at the Lily Pool was carried out & we welcomed new volunteer Caroline to the group. Play area planting was tidied & weeded. An area of exposed soil under the Cornus mas near the Lily Pool has had rocks added to give structure. Unfortunately the plants added were found in the pool the day after.

September. Throughout the month dead herbaceous matter was cut back & general weeding carried out. Jurassic & Community Gardens were weeded & tidied, & work started on pruning the climbing roses. Main gates rockery & twin rockeries were weeded. We welcomed new volunteer Nigel to the park.

October. Pruning of climbing roses was completed, rose beds weeded, herbaceous planting cut back & work on Jubilee Gate border started with weeding & pruning. Summer bedding was pulled. It is hoped to cure the leak in the bog garden using bentonite clay.

Future plans include -

Reviewing the planting in Little Park

Taxus baccata aurea to be planted as a backdrop to the pool behind the fountain.

Tree planting, including a Cercidiphyllum japonicum

Thanks as usual to Keith & Chris for their continuing support.

Vol. gardening hours for 2017 to end September: 1096

Total since 2005: 16574

7. Friends Events in the Park

Halloween - Wednesday 25th October, 11 to 1.

Switching on the lights on the Christmas tree - Wednesday 6th December

Christmas Dinner - Tuesday 5th December

8. Any other business

HC expressed thanks on behalf of WTC for all the work that goes into the park.

Concern was expressed that the park advert is not displayed in the Park & Ride bus. This needs investigation (RB)

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 28th March 2018, 4 pm, Normanby Room