

SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION



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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) 16th October 2019 4 pm in the Normanby Room

Present - Bob Bennett, Gill Wood, Ron Wood, Kath Horsley, Linda Wilkins, Keith Wright, Linda Sims, Anne Noble, Heather Coughlan, Sorrel Hinchliffe, Jonathan Harston, Otis Bailey, Nigel Dixon.

1. **Apologies** - Chris Roe, Roger Parsons, Lynne Brunskill.
2. **Minutes of the Open Meeting 27th March 2019**
These were agreed correct.
3. **Minutes of the Pannett Park Management Committee meetings, on 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September 2019.**
The minutes were presented to the meeting.
They had been available on the website.
4. **FPP Report** - Bob Bennett reported -
March to October 2019
Easter in the park went off as well as ever. Thanks go to all who helped.
We had another visit to RHS Harlow Carr this year.
The old wooden benches in front of the museum have been given a new lease of life.
We had them bead blasted by the same firm who did our gates and on their return a group of us oiled them.
We had an inspirational if somewhat damp trip to the Keukenhof Gardens this year but the flowers still managed to glow through the rain.
The Jurassic Garden interpretation board had been steadily fading over the last year or so. It has now been replaced, as have the success boards.
Gill and Ron have advised the setup of a Friends of Valley Gardens group.
The 'new' gates' scroll work was high-lighted with ivory paint.
The stainless steel poetry scrolls were installed using an anchoring system, which was also used to anchor down a couple of the benches.

Pannett Day went well, though sadly we had to do without the usual PNSA performance. However a storytelling tent, there for the first time, proved very popular, as did the Rotter's Chef with his advice on saving waste in the kitchen. We have had a meeting with a representative from the Children's University with a view to the Park, becoming a recognised site. We had breakfast at Perry's and then coffee in Gill and Ron's garden. We loaned some of our games The Catholic Church summer fair. We provided games for the 'Lions Event' in the park and donated the takings to the Lions. I attended a meeting to discuss signage throughout the town. The Little Free Library is now made & needs painting ready for installation in the spring. As ever my thanks go to everyone involved... WTC, SBC and Friends who keep on working tirelessly to support our Park.

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

In the spring the Equinox chain saw carving was completed, near the Green Man. Three trees were planted in Little Park & one near the Lily Pool. The narcissi looked particularly good, as did the spring bedding. The Great British Spring Clean involved litter picking & weeding the park perimeter. The replica rope guide was placed near the main entrance, where the original had been. Early summer saw preparation for Bloom judging - thanks to everyone for their contributions. The roses looked their best ever this year. Otis, the new park apprentice, has settled in well & is proving invaluable.

We were judged by a mystery shopper for the Green Flag & heritage site awards & were awarded both in July.

Yorkshire in Bloom judging in July resulted in a Platinum award for the park. We await the results of Whitby's judging in August for Britain in Bloom.

Over 100 stunning aerial photographs were taken of the park.

Following a site meeting Union Steps Rockery is being cleared in preparation for new planting.

7. **Volunteer Gardener's Report** - Gill Wood reported -

Notes from a Volunteer Gardener April 2019 - October 2019

April. Stepping stones were laid in the Community Garden, the herb garden tidied & the tap fixed. Bins & boards cleaned & watering continued weekly. The new growth on climbing plants was rapid, they were tied in regularly. Rose beds weeded & edged off & Peony Steps spruced up. The periphery of the park was weeded from the top of Chubb Hill to main gate. A seaweed drench was given to Magnolia grandiflora & Trachelospermum jasminoides, & growmore applied to all climbing plants. The rockery at the Lily Pool was weeded, also entrance at Bagdale, & maintenance carried out on herbaceous borders.

May. Weeding at Bagdale fernery continued, bedding pulled & hyacinth bulbs lifted & stored. The Community Garden was planted up, watering continued, climbers managed. Struggling plants were dosed with seaweed. The rose bed near the cabin was weeded. The sedum were Chelsea chopped & play area beds & Rose Garden weeded. Main gate area weeded, edging off paths started & the compost bin levelled by unusual means. An overhanging shrub or two were pruned back.

June. Weather very unsettled this month, however plants got away strongly. Paths were edged off, weeding carried out, watering continued, climbers tied in. Boards, bins & seats were cleaned. The focus for the second half of the month was in preparing the route for Yorkshire in Bloom judging.

July. A very high standard of maintenance & presentation was achieved for Bloom judging, both at the start & end of the month. Routine work continued around this in areas away from the judging route. Aquilegia rockery was weeded, roses dead-headed, watering continued, climbers & herbaceous planting maintained, Bagdale entrance & small hydrangea bed were weeded.

August. Holidays were taken & visitors entertained so volunteer hours dropped this month. Weeding was carried out near Jubilee Gate & on St. Hilda's Terrace, wisteria were pruned, roses dead-headed & weeded, watering continued. The Community Garden veg bed was tidied & delicious veg harvested. Twin rockeries had a good sort out, & perennial geraniums & other herbaceous plants were cut back.

September. Lily Pool rockery & the Community Garden were tidied. There was much excitement at the quality of the compost! Rose beds were weeded & climbing roses dead-headed. Watering of trees continued & herbaceous planting cleared when looking tatty.

October. The summer bedding was pulled, Peony Steps & rose beds weeded & climbing roses pruned. Watering of trees continued despite heavy rain.

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

8. **Dates to note**

Halloween in the Park - 30th October, 11 to 1.
Christmas tree lights - 11th December, 3.30
Christmas lunch - 20th December, 1 pm.
Invitation to bloom celebration - 6th November

9. **Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 25th March 2020, 4pm, Normanby Room