

**FTQP: Friends of Town Quay Park**  
**Minutes of AGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at St Joseph's Church Hall**

**1. Attendance and apologies**

A total of 30 people were present, Councillors Bogle, Noon & Tucker, and 27 FTQP members, including 8 (of 10) FTQP Committee members.

Apologies were received from Jenny Campbell, Michelle Comben, Dan Comben, Dan Crowe, Mary Gravell, Marian Hubble, Antonella Ianni, Fiona Rickets, Brian Sefton, Neil Shackwell, Angela Turley, Walter Tuttleby, Julia Wetherall.

**2. Minutes & matter arising**

Minutes of the 2014 AGM were agreed as an accurate record, and there were no matters arising.

**3. Annual report**

FTQP Chair, Ros Cassy, reported on the year's activities. Highlights were:

- Confirmation that the Park is no longer a development area but will remain an open space
- The main focus has been on Park improvements with extensive consultation and plans arising from these currently being costed
- Representing FTQP in relation to the upgrade of Town Quay Road, proposals for a large casino, the Waterfront development
- Regular maintenance & improvement of the Park by FTQP gardening volunteers, joined monthly by St John's School Nature Club
- Events including FEPOW wreath laying, September picnic, 2 quizzes.
- 4 Committee meetings over the year, plus subgroups
- Thanks to Richard Gray for maintaining the website
- Thanks to Jill Pantany for use of meeting room at Castle House

In the ensuing discussion following the Annual Report:

- It was agreed that FTQP membership fees rise to £5 per person, £2 concessions per annum and £25 life membership in order to raise funds for investing in park development. Proposed Roger Townsend, seconded Carolyne Darmanin
- John Avery reported that the Huguenot Society in London have approved the sum of £500 to improve the Huguenot garden in Southampton. Members asked for thanks to be conveyed. The French Service will be held in St Julien's on 12 July at 3pm, with 1 of the Presidents of the Huguenot Society attending.

**4. Committee elections**

1 new Committee member, Jenny Hughes, was coopted following the last AGM raising Committee membership to 10 people, with 2 vacancies remaining. Jenny was formally elected to the Committee (proposed Kay Labon, seconded Rosemary Hellyar). No further nominations to the Committee were made, current Committee members and officers agreed to remain as now.

## **5. Financial report & budget**

Catherine Curtice (Treasurer) presented the 2014/15 accounts & budget for 2015/16. Mary Gravell was thanked for checking the accounts. The budget for 2015/16 was agreed unanimously. Linda Moule Page was thanked for her generous offer towards insurance costs.

Members agreed (unanimously) that the Committee should have discretion to use up to £1000 of current funds to invest in park development, particularly as matched funding. This is in addition to any specific funds raised for this purpose in the course of the coming year.

## **6. Future activities**

Members considered the recent June picnic to have been a great success, particularly appreciating the jazz – with thanks to Chris Ricketts. Thorough promotion/publicity helped. Suggestion made of a raffle for future picnics – **Cllr Matt Tucker offered to check the legal status of holding a public raffle.**

Another picnic over the summer was suggested. **Carolyn Darmanin** offered to help with an Agincourt picnic if a date is agreed.

Other activities planned were an autumn and spring quiz, carols in the park or in the Woolhouse.

## **7. Park development**

FTQP Secretary, Irene MacWilliam, gave an update on park developments. The overall plan was shared and the initial emphasis on the west side (mound area) was explained. It derives from the need to define the boundary of the park on the western edge and to improve both the mound itself and the corn store ruins as well as the grass area.

Main points of the subsequent discussion were that:

- The possible cost of up to £50K was considered very high in terms of how much that area is used, finding the necessary amount of money, the view that the eastern side of the park is of greater benefit & interest to FTQP members.
- Ideas for the park were put forward including the importance of improving the public space on the west side and support for improving the corn store and installing seating; potential to grass over the concrete area on the east side, possible band stand with open sides, play area on concrete area (painted on but no fixed play equipment), informal play could include logs placed where children can use them imaginatively, recreate the wild flower meadow next to Quilters vault on the west side, Canute's palace and the ruins need to be more visible and understood.
- Information to help with raising funds was offered including Lottery interest in funding projects that benefit black and minority ethnic groups (strongly represented in the pupils of the school), those with learning disability and for health and wellbeing purposes.

Following an open discussion members agreed that:

- It is sensible to adopt a phased approach to developing the park, starting with the west side
- The east side would be second priority but planning and design should continue whilst funding for the west side is being sought.

In order to understand the actual (rather than presumed) usage of the park, and how the local community would like to use the park in future, a further consultation will be done with a wider range of people. This 'evidence of need' is necessary for funding applications.

There will be a workshop run by Groundwork & FTQP for volunteers to undertake a house to house and park survey, with the aim of getting 150 - 200 responses to improve our understanding of the use of the park and to support funding applications. 6 people volunteered to help with the survey and training to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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