

## Minutes FoPP AGM 20/9/16

Chair - Katy Gardener

Present - Ingrid Watts, Colin Watts, Faye Carter, Jon Wolff, Dave Cornick, Paul Slater, 3 fisherman: Brad Taylor, Brian Collins, Aaron Temple, Lis Davidson.

Apologies - Christine Ruth, Marilyn Williams

The AGM proper happened after two opening talks with discussions; from Lesley Woodbridge and Brendan Monks, both from the City Council.

Lesley explained her involvement with Sonia Bassey and the Mandela memorial project and the work done so far by the MMP organisation in conjunction with herself: This included writing a brief for a consultant who is due to be appointed by the end of the month. The money so far raised by the charity is sufficient to fund this person to work at both consulting with local people, (including ourselves), come up with a plan for the memorial, (current ideas include work to reinstate the island in the lake with a symbolic bridge onto it given Mandela's incarceration on Robbin Island, but also his emphasis on keeping lines of communication open between diverse peoples) and then the tasks of raising funds to make the plans happen. A lively discussion occurred, with the 3 fisherman present expressing anxieties about the possible impact of opening up the island on wildlife, the lack of toilet facilities in the park and the lack of young people using the park. Various points were raised in response to these anxieties: nothing was so far set in stone (and a stone statue was NOT the plan), the consultation process should involve them (the consultation should involve as many local people as possible) and that we were all in agreement about wanting to increase the use of the park by local people. The chair pointed out that the city council had NO money for park restoration so funding from the Mandela memorial was to be very important for the well-being of the lake as it naturally leads to work being done on the lake and can attract other funding.

This lead into Brendan Monks explanation of what he was presently involved with which was working with an expert to look at all of the issues around the lake, previous repairs to leaks, the underlying drains, rivers and sewage system that impacts on occasions and a how to address these issues in a sustainable, effective and affordable way. He was hoping to have this report in the near future and promised to share it with both ourselves and the fishermen. Anxieties about previous works done by the council e.g. in Sefton park around the lake where large numbers of fish had been lost were raised. Brendan was clear that he wanted to learn from past errors, and get the best for Princes Park lake that he was able.

We then thanked Lesley and Brendan for their input, and we moved on to the formal business of the AGM.

1. Minutes of last year's AGM were approved by those present. no corrections made.
2. Katy went through our annual report (see attached or viewed in website - <http://friendsof-princesparkl8.org.uk/FOPP> ) outlining the practical things we had been involved in (volunteers planted trees, coppiced others, picked litter and lead walks), our ever improving website (Thank you Fraser), our links with a) Squash nutrition (and the events they have held, and are about to...) b) Park run (with over 200 runners each week) and c) the Mandela memorial project ( see above). Massive cuts to the council presents difficulties and we are awaiting the parks and green spaces review due out within the next month. FOPP will hold a meeting once the report is out (November).Katy thanked everyone who has worked for FoPP and her report was accepted.
3. Election of Officers -
  1. Katy (thankfully) agreed to re-stand - Lis nominated and Dave seconded and passed with no objections.
  2. Vice chair was Christine Ruth she would like to stay on exec but step down from vice chair. Everyone agreed it would be very valuable if she remained on the exec.
  3. WE all felt Marilyn would make and excellent vice chair and in her absence she was nominated for vice chair by Katy and seconded by Dave.

4. Jon to continue as Treasurer nominated by Katy seconded by Dave
5. Secretary - Lis to continue nominated by Katy , seconded by Jon
6. Brad Taylor (fisherman) also put him self forward for the Executive agreed by all.
7. Other exec members: Dave will contact Dan re the exec. FOPP hopes Dan will stay in the tree group.
8. Ingrid will contact Pat about the exec.

Times and venues for further meetings were discussed,

Next FOPP meeting third Thursday in November 6pm Crawford House. 17th November

The two volunteer Saturdays - 8th and 15th October were advertised and people asked to distribute flyers. There will be further tree work later in the winter.