



**Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery (FoHPC)**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at  
St James' Church Hall 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at 19:00hrs**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	<p><b>Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Chairman Richard Bell (RB) chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees, including Elizabeth Hardcastle, Living Churchyards Project Officer, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.</p>	
2	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Gill Johnson, Wendy Sissons, Tony Sockett, Mr &amp; Mrs Ackroyd, Helen Slade, Margaret Herbert</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of AGM held on 25th January 2010</b></p> <p>No questions were raised and they were accepted by the meeting</p>	
4	<p><b>Executive Committee Report for 2010/11</b></p> <p>RB provided a presentation including photographs of recent developments.  RB read out the report of which a copy is attached.  A question was raised regarding the signs promoting the FoHPC group / website and if this was deemed adequate. Could an additional sign be placed externally on Carr House Road adjacent to the cemetery?  RB agreed to look at this issue.</p>	
5	<p><b>Finance Report for 2010/11</b></p> <p>Rev. Alan Murray (AM) presented the accounts for the year. The opening balance of the general fund was £158 at January 2010. Donations amounted to £292. Expenditure accounted for £269 leaving a closing balance of £181.</p> <p>The Friends received a 'Grassroots' grant of £1260 and a 'Living Streets' grant of £2956. The 'Heritage Trail' was funded directly by Living Streets. All this grant funding had either been spent or was earmarked for projects.</p>	
6	<p><b>Presentation by Elizabeth Hardcastle (EH), Living Churchyards Project Officer</b></p> <p>Informative presentation by EH supplemented by photographs of projects and achievements at other Yorkshire churchyards.</p>	

**7 Looking Forward to 2011/12**

RB set out the potential projects, subject to Committee approval.

- Additional self-guide walk leaflets
- Four guided walks arranged for summer 2011
- More planting in the Memorial Meadow
- Development of the wildlife area
- Initiate a project for Monument repairs
- Training then undertaking tree pruning
- Strengthen working partnerships

**8 Election of Executive Committee for 2011/12**

The following Executive Committee nominations were received for 2011/12

- Chair - Richard Bell
- Vice-Chair - Val Moate
- Treasurer - Rev. Alan Murray
- Secretary - Phillip Ayres
- Committee - Margaret Bark
- Committee - Sheila North
- Committee - Wendy Sissons
- Committee - Josie Whitehead
- Committee - Vacant
- Committee - Vacant

**9 Appointment of Auditor for 2011/12**

RB advises that Michael Fenton, the current Auditor, has requested that a replacement be found as he has recently moved away from the area. He is happy to continue until this is resolved

**10 Conversion to Charity Status**

RB advises that the Executive Committee has the power to decide but any proposed changes to the Constitution must be presented to a Special General Meeting or AGM.

There then followed a general discussion about the pro's and con's of such a move.

**11 Any Other Business**

RB reminded those present that another Working Morning is being held this Saturday 11th June and hoped for a good attendance to carry on the excellent work that has been done over the last twelve months. RB thanked EH of The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and all those present and the meeting closed at 2110.

END



**Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery**  
**Executive Committee Report for 2010/11**

The sixteen months since the Friends' previous AGM have seen good progress being made on several fronts and, most importantly, have resulted in significant improvements taking place within Hyde Park Cemetery.

At the AGM held on 25 January 2010, the following Officers and Committee Members were elected:

• Chair – Richard Bell	• Committee – Margaret Bark
• Vice-Chair – Val Moate	• Committee – Jay Dillon Singh
• Treasurer – Rev. Alan Murray	• Committee – Wendy Sissons
• Secretary – no nominations received	• Committee – Rosemary Slater
	• Committee – Josie Whitehead

In the intervening period up to today's meeting Rosemary Slater has resigned her position and Jay Dillon Singh has been absent from all committee meetings since May 2010, contact having been lost with him. In view of the reduced number of members, Sheila North (former Secretary) was invited to re-join the committee as a co-opted member, in accordance with the constitution, and this she did from February 2011. The Secretary's position has remained vacant in spite of several appeals for assistance with this role, thus placing additional burden on the remaining Officers and committee members.

Several significant enhancements have been made to the cemetery as a result of the Friends' activities in 2010/11:

- Section 'O' has been re-landscaped, using the resources of Carr House Allotments Social Enterprise;
- Monthly 'Working Mornings' have been established, allowing members and other volunteers to make a direct contribution towards improving the cemetery. Tools and equipment for the Working Mornings have been purchased;
- A 'memorial meadow' was begun by Hexthorpe Primary School's 'Eco-Warriors', which will commemorate those people buried in the Public Graves of Sections H and I;
- Bluebells have been planted in the designated wildlife area of Section C;
- A bat roosting box has been fixed and bird nesting boxes, purchased by the Friends, have been assembled by the Eco Warriors prior to erecting on site;
- Two signs giving the Friends' website address have been placed within the cemetery;
- Extensive footpath resurfacing has taken place, following lobbying by the Friends with the elected Mayor and Council Officers;
- The Council's 'Fitter for Walking' programme has funded a pair of gates at the New Street entrance and three new benches, and;
- Twenty markers have been installed as part of the recently-launched Heritage Circuit.

The foregoing is in addition to the ongoing maintenance work carried out by the DMBC Grounds Maintenance team, for whose efforts we are grateful.

The Friends have continued to produce information and generate publicity for Hyde Park Cemetery through a range of activities:



- Six illustrated talks presented to local groups have helped both to spread the word about our activities and to swell our funds;
- Four guided walks were hosted in 2010, all of which were well attended and well received;
- Our website continues to be an important tool in publicising our work beyond the local area and the first five months of 2011 have seen a 25% increase in visitors to the website, compared with the same period in 2010;
- Radio interviews have been broadcast on both Sine FM and BBC Radio Sheffield;
- Numerous enquiries about past burials have been answered, from people researching their family history;
- Regular notices about the Friends' activities have appeared in the Doncaster Free Press and the first anniversary Working Morning was marked by a photograph and article in that newspaper, and;
- The launch of the Heritage Circuit by Rosie Winterton MP, on 20<sup>th</sup> May, attracted a very good crowd and brought our work to the attention of an influential figure.

Other significant matters which are worth recording are as follows:

- Ongoing fundraising activities, not only through various funding bodies, but also via the less formal routes of collecting donations, charging fees for giving talks and running a tombola stall at a recent Craft Fair, and;
- Investigations into the pros and cons of converting into a registered charity, a matter which will be pursued further in the coming months.

Establishing and maintaining good working relationships with key organisations and individuals continues to be of vital importance to the Friends and we are grateful for the continuing support and encouragement given by, amongst others:

- Amanda Carr and her team at DMBC Bereavement Services;
- DMBC Safer Neighbourhood Team;
- Jim Shaw of Living Streets;
- Adrian Welch Glass & Glazing;
- Councillor Glyn Jones;
- The Doncaster & District Heritage Association and the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, through which we access a network of like-minded people;
- Hexthorpe Primary School;
- Sandra and Don Crabtree of Friends of Sandall Park;
- Geoff Bennett (for printing our newsletters)
- Enhancement Training Ltd, and;
- The many volunteers who have contributed to activities throughout the year.

Whilst the past year has seen significant progress being made on a number of fronts, as we move forward it is time to take on new challenges. Central to this strategy will be finding a way to carry out repairs and restorations to monuments. We shall seek funding for a project which will not only achieve this end, but will also provide employment, training and skills development opportunities for needy individuals in the process.

Finally, thanks go to everyone who has contributed towards making the past year a successful one for the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery and we look forward to an equally successful year ahead.

6 June 2011