



Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Minutes of Annual General Meeting at St James' Hall, 26 January 2009

<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	<p><u>Welcome and Introduction</u> In the absence of an elected Chairperson, Richard Bell (RB) chaired the meeting and welcomed attendees, including the representatives of DMBC Bereavement Services, Groundwork Dearne Valley and Carr House Allotments Social Enterprise (CHASE).</p> <p>20 people were present. As at least 10% of the Friends' Members were in attendance, the meeting was deemed to be quorate.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies had been received from Sheila North and Margaret Herbert, neither of whom was able to attend.</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes of AGM held on 28 January 2008</u> RB read out the minutes of the previous AGM, which were approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising.</p>	
4	<p><u>Executive Committee Report for 2008</u> RB read out the Executive Committee Report for 2008. A copy is attached as an appendix to these minutes.</p>	
5	<p><u>Finance Report for 2007/08</u> Rev^d Alan Murray (AM) presented the Finance Report for the year ended 31st March 2008. At the year end there was £419.30 in the General Fund. There was some movement in and out of the Development Worker Fund early in the year, when Mike Parnell was still employed by the Friends, but that Fund was subsequently closed with £Nil balance.</p>	
6	<p><u>Presentation on Forthcoming Priorities</u> RB gave an illustrated presentation on the forthcoming priorities for the Friends. He explained the background and method used to determine the highest priorities. These are:</p> <p>Priority 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Tidy and replant shrubsb) Reinststate gravel area near main entrancec) Conserve monuments / graves in Area 3 <p>Priority 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Reinststate pathways in Areas 1 & 2 <p>Priority 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Wildflower areab) Interpretation & information (i.e. on and off site, incl. website)	



7 The Roles of Affiliated Organisations

RB introduced, in turn, the representatives of the various other organisations in attendance, for them to explain how they could assist the Friends.

7.1 **Doncaster MBC Bereavement Services (Amanda Carr)**

AC explained that her organisation is responsible for 13 graveyards (including Hyde Park Cemetery) and 9 closed churchyards, in addition to Rose Hill Crematorium. Hyde Park Cemetery has seen approximately 54,000 burials and has been closed to new plots since the cemetery ceased to have a full-time caretaker. However, the potential for around 800 new plots has been identified.

Over the past two years regular patrols through HPC by Community Wardens had had a positive effect on the number of incidents of unsocial behaviour and the cost of repairs was down from about £5k to £1k per year. Maintenance costs about £25k per year.

In 1999 New Deal for Communities (NDC) arrived and in 2000 a partnership was formed between DMBC, NDC and FoHPC. In 2004 £450k was spent, mainly on providing temporary roofs to arrest deterioration of the buildings, but DMBC does not have sufficient funds to match those potentially available from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In late 2008 a new entrance / exit was provided through the New Street boundary wall, which should encourage use of the Cemetery as a thoroughfare, although children continue to gain access nearby, through some temporary Heras fencing, where the wall has collapsed. The new entrance is to be sign-posted.

AC

AC asked the meeting to consider whether an area of the Cemetery ought to be set aside for cremated remains.

FoHPC

Councillor Glyn Jones, who was in the audience, reiterated DMBC's commitment to improving and refurbishing the cemetery and confirmed the need to show that it is loved and cared for.

A question was asked about the use of community service / probation labour in HPC. RB held this over for Pete Beresford to answer later.

AC advised that all the burial registers now reside at DMBC Archives, in Balby.

7.2 **Groundwork Dearne Valley (Alex Evans)**

AE explained that Groundwork Dearne Valley was established in 1995 and now operated throughout Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster Council areas. It supports community programmes to deliver projects and programmes that benefit people, places and prosperity. GDV is currently involved in Hexthorpe improving an outdoor space.



AE said that GDV's role with the FoHPC would be to support the Friends as a community group, helping in identifying priorities, bringing in funding, managing budgets and encouraging sustainability.

AE showed some slides of work that GDV had been involved with.

A point was raised about the range of trades represented by those interred in HPC and how that could be a draw to visitors. RB suggested that this could be incorporated into a themed guided walk.

FoHPC

7.3 Carr House Allotments Social Enterprise [CHASE] (Pete Beresford)

PB explained that he lives in Hyde Park and has a personal interest in the Cemetery. CHASE began as an allotment society but, as opportunities arose and were developed, it converted into a social enterprise, with social aims and objectives.

CHASE has a contract with the Probation Service to identify tasks and deliver the supervision of those tasks being undertaken by people under probation orders. CHASE has its own City & Guilds trainer in horticulture, for example. It is capable of providing free labour to work in HPC, with those workers developing skills whilst they are there, at no cost to FoHPC.

PB's presentation prompted debate on the use of probation order individuals for work such as that required in HPC.

RB pointed out that, in the past, FoHPC had devoted most of their effort to securing full refurbishment of HPC but, now that is very unlikely to be achieved in the foreseeable future, CHASE represented a golden opportunity to tackle a series of minor projects, using a free source of supervised labour.

8 Election of Executive Committee

Councillor Glyn Jones encouraged members of FoHPC to become more involved in the activities of the group.

The following Executive Committee nominations were received for 2009:

- Chairperson – Richard Bell
- Vice-Chairperson – Val Winfield
- Secretary – Sheila North
- Treasurer – Rev^d Alan Murray
- Committee – Barbara Adair
- Committee – Margaret Bark
- Committee – Sheila Jones
- Committee – Rosemary Slater
- Committee – Josie Whitehead



The foregoing nominations were accepted and all were duly elected.

9 **Appointment of Auditor for 2009**

FoHPC's accounts were currently audited by Michael Fenton, who undertook the work free-of-charge. AM proposed that Mr Fenton be approved as Auditor for 2009. The meeting approved the proposal.

10 **Any Other Business**

RB shared his contact details with those present, namely:

- Home Tel: 05601 611234
- Mobile Tel: 07777 688438
- Email: richardbell.fohpc@btinternet.com

RB asked other Members to provide their email addresses if possible, to ease future communications.

11 **Close**

The meeting closed at approximately 9:10pm.

END

*Notes prepared by Richard Bell
February 2009*



Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery
Executive Committee Report for 2008

2008 has been a year of mixed fortunes for the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery, although the year ends much more optimistically than it began.

The 2008 AGM signalled a change in direction for the Friends. Following the realisation during 2007 that a major renovation of the Cemetery was not going to be feasible for the foreseeable future it was decided that the Friends should concentrate on initiating small scale projects. These would show concrete evidence that physical improvements were being made, as well as generating confidence for more significant works to be undertaken in future.

Whatever the type and extent of the activities to be undertaken by the Friends, they need the input and commitment of as many individuals as possible in order to make progress. It was, therefore, regrettable that no nominations were forthcoming at the 2008 AGM for the positions of Chairperson and Secretary, two critical positions in the running of the Friends group. It seemed that, in spite of genuine wishes to further the objectives of the Friends, other pressures were preventing Members from devoting the time needed to pursue those objectives. It was in the context of this depleted Executive Committee that a period of inactivity occurred from January until September.

Following contact being made in September with members of the Executive Committee, by Amanda Carr, DMBC Bereavement Services Manager, a meeting took place to explore the options which were then presenting themselves for certain other local organisations to work with the Friends, for mutual benefit. The organisations concerned were Groundwork Dearne Valley, CHASE (Carr House Allotments Social Enterprise) and Hyde Park Partnership. These organisations had objectives that appeared to complement those of the Friends.

Further meetings and a joint site visit took place late in the year to identify potential specific activities that could be pursued. Sufficient progress has now been made to be able to present proposals to the 2009 AGM for working in partnership with these affiliated organisations.

As the year comes to an end, opportunities exist to make real progress in Hyde Park Cemetery and to overcome the frustrations of recent years by implementing tangible improvements in line with the Friends' objectives.

25 January 2009

END

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