

FRIENDS OF HOB MOOR

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Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 20 October 2008, 7.30 – 8.30pm West Thorpe Methodist Church, West Thorpe, York

Present at AGM

Committee: Simon Palmour (Chairperson), Michael Spencer (Treasurer), Gwen Berwick (Secretary), Madeline Evans, Peter Green, Margaret Hainsworth, David McCloy, Elizabeth Tomlinson, Pauline Walker

Members: Malcolm Hainsworth, Patricia Palaeologina, Margaret Weeden, Frank Weeden, Ian Tomlinson, Christine Richardson, Elizabeth Smith, Tania Durkin, Nancy Lidgett, Anne Carr, Anne Paver, Margaret Gravely, John Gravely, Toni Jackson, Shirley Jones, Christine Hardie, Beck Sinar, John Hopton

City of York Council Officer: Annemarie Heslop

The Chairperson welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

1. Apologies

Martyn & Val Buckman, Bill Carr, Pamela Collingwood, Alison Cowen, Peter Lidgett, Colin Richardson, Dinah and Mark Tyszka

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report

The Chairperson presented the Annual Report for the year 2007-08. He outlined nine areas of work on which efforts had been concentrated over the course of the year:

- further development of the website
- attendance at local events, with our new gazebo
- walks and talks
- improving facilities: our role in producing a new information board, having the railway tunnel drained and a new chicane added
- practical work, eg planting, litter clearing, tree and skylark monitoring
- liaison, eg with the council, police, planning department, cycle officers and farmer
- monitoring, reviewing and implementing the management plan
- issuing of the twice-yearly newsletter
- archaeology: commissioning research into the possible location of the watermill.

After the presentation of the report, a number of points were discussed:

- The entrance from Green Lane noticeboard had been burnt. The council had already been informed and will take action.
- It was suggested that we should have an additional noticeboard at the North Lane entrance. The committee will discuss this at the next meeting.
- One member thought that the Moor had not been mown as much by the baths this year as in previous years. Annemarie Heslop will look into this.
- The number of cattle had been reduced and there will be fewer in future.
- There was concern about the increase in the numbers of magpies and their predation of other birds, and whether they should be culled. Margaret Weeden thought that it is not currently possible to cull magpies.

- Patricia Palaeologina suggested that we consider digging a pond by the baths. The committee had discussed this possibility last year and felt that there would be issues of vandalism and health and safety. The issue will be discussed again at a future committee meeting.
- Members were reminded to provide their email address if they had one, so that information can be sent out by email to save costs.
- A member had recently written memories of growing up by Hob Moor, and these had been added to the website. David McCloy warmly invited other members who enjoyed writing to send in their own memories.

4. **Presentation of the accounts and determination of the annual subscription**

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2008 were presented by the Treasurer. Acceptance of the Accounts was carried following a proposal by Margaret Weeden, seconded by Pauline Walker.

There was a short discussion on whether to retain the subscription at the current level of £2 for the forthcoming year, as recommended by the Management Committee. The proposal, made by Simon Palmour and seconded by Pauline Walker, was carried.

5. **Appointment of independent examiner of accounts**

The appointment of David Ward as independent examiner of accounts was proposed by Simon Palmour, seconded by Margaret Hainsworth and carried unanimously.

6. **Election of Officers**

Written nominations had been received for Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, one for each post. The following people were therefore re-elected to post:

Chairperson: Simon Palmour

Secretary: Gwen Berwick

Treasurer: Michael Spencer

7. **Election of members of the Management Committee**

Pauline Walker retired from the committee, having served since 2001. On behalf of the committee and FOHM, Gwen Berwick thanked her warmly for all her work and commitment over that time.

Margaret Hainsworth, Peter Green, and Madeline Evans remain for their second year. David McCloy was re-elected, having been proposed by Ian Tomlinson and seconded by Malcolm Hainsworth, and Elizabeth Tomlinson was re-elected following a proposal by Madeleine Evans, seconded by Malcolm Hainsworth.

As there is a further vacancy on the committee and the capacity to co-opt two additional members, the chairperson extended a warm welcome to anyone who wished to join, or to discuss the possibility of joining.

There was no further business. The formal part of the meeting was followed by an interesting talk by members of the Holgate Windmill Preservation Society about the history of windmills in general and Holgate Mill in particular: its history and the current restoration project.

Refreshments were then served, giving members the opportunity to chat to each other and discuss issues informally.