

FRIENDS OF HOB MOOR

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Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 14 October 2009, 7.30 – 8.20pm West Thorpe Methodist Church, West Thorpe, York

Present at AGM

Committee: Simon Palmour (Chairperson), Madeline Evans, Peter Green, Margaret Hainsworth, Elizabeth Tomlinson

Members: Elizabeth Smith, Peter Lidgett, Nancy Lidgett, Anne Paver, Margaret Weeden, Christine Richardson, Colin Richardson, Shirley Jones, Ian Tomlinson, Michael Bailey, Isobel Kunnell, Margaret Hainsworth, Toni Jackson, Pauline Walker, Martyn Buckman, Richard Dalton, Sue Cawood, Swea Sayers, Stephen Sayers, Phil Fowler, Ian Everard, Val Everard, Julian Spaul, Gina Spaul, Angela Fuller, Derek Fuller

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

1. Apologies

Gwen Berwick, Val Buckman, Malcolm Hainsworth, AnneMarie Heslop, Janet Kay, David McCloy, Michael Spencer, Dinah Tyszka, 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 2008-09. He outlined nine areas of work on which efforts had been concentrated over the course of the year:

- further development of the website including additional pages on flora and fauna, the inclusion of all past newsletters as well as an audio recording of a skylark on the moor.
- attendance at local events: the turnout at these was excellent.
- walks and talks: these as usual have proved popular.
- improving facilities: we have commissioned two new benches, contributed to the Council's leaflet on the moor as well as commissioning our own new colour leaflet which will be available in 2010.
- practical work, eg planting, litter clearing, tree and skylark monitoring. We have worked with the Council on thistle cutting as well as updating the information boards regularly and frequently.
- liaison, eg with the council, police, planning department, cycle officers, farmer and Environmental Agency. AnneMarie Heslop, the Council's Ranger for Hob Moor, has been a great help in the last year attending committee meetings and ensuring agreed actions are effected as soon as possible.
- monitoring, reviewing and implementing the management plan. The committee together with the council have commissioned a new study of the moor from Martin Hammond, who completed the last one in 2001.
- issuing of the twice-yearly newsletter.
- archaeology: commissioning a trench to be dug to look for evidence of a water mill at the Holly Bank entrance to the moor.

There were no questions after the presentation of the report.

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

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2009 were presented by the Chairperson. Acceptance of the Accounts was carried following a proposal by Julian Spaul and seconded by Pauline Walker.

It was agreed to retain the subscription at the current level of £2 for the forthcoming year, as recommended by the Management Committee. The proposal, made by Anne Paver and seconded by Michael Bailey, 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 Madeline Evans 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**

Margaret Hainsworth retired from the committee, having served since 2003. On behalf of the committee and FOHM, Simon Palmour thanked her warmly for all her work and commitment over that time.

David McCloy and Elizabeth Tomlinson remain for their second year. Madeline Evans was re-elected, having been proposed by Elizabeth Tomlinson and seconded by Margaret Weeden. Peter Green was re-elected, having been proposed by Simon Palmour and seconded by Margaret Hainsworth.

As there are now two vacancies 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 with any committee member the possibility of joining. He also mentioned that members were welcome to join as co-opted committee members on a trial basis or indeed could just sit in for a couple of meetings before deciding.

8. **Any other Business**

There was no further business. Refreshments were then served, giving members the opportunity to chat to each other and discuss issues informally.

Before the formal part of the meeting there was a fascinating talk on the Halloween Feast by Stephen Sayers. Stephen talked about the origins of Halloween at the end of the harvest and the preparation for winter, linking it with Martinmas and All Saints Day. He also explained the derivation of the term 'bonfire', and how the feast at this time also influenced the choice of date for the First World War Armistice.