

FRIENDS OF HOB MOOR

www.friendsofhobmoor.org.uk

Minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 October 2011, 7.30 – 8.45pm West Thorpe Methodist Church, West Thorpe, York

Present at AGM

Committee: Simon Palmour (Chairperson), Michael Spencer (Treasurer), Gwen Berwick (Secretary), Madeline Evans, Peter Green, Elizabeth Tomlinson, Ian Tomlinson, John Wood

Members: Margaret Hainsworth, Malcolm Hainsworth, Robin Cooper, Guy Wallbanks, Anne Leggett, Pam Hanley, Val Everard, Pauline Walker, Elizabeth Smith, Sandra McCormick, Ann Gray, Richard Gray

Guest: Muriel Williamson

CoYC Ranger: Jenny Cairns

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

1. Apologies

Rosemary Anderton, David McCloy, Val Buckman, Martyn Buckman, P G Kirk, P M Kirk, Chris Stride, Margaret Weeden, Frank Weeden, Patricia Palaeologina, Anne Green, Peter Lidgett, Nancy Lidgett, Sue Cawood, Anne Paver

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 2010-11. The report outlined nine areas of work on which efforts had been concentrated over the course of the year:

- further development of the website, which has had increasing visitor numbers and is a good medium for the public to gain information about Hob Moor and FOHM.
- Stewardship Scheme: this now provides extra money for the care and management of the moor. FOHM will liaise with the Council over the implementation of the scheme.
- a range of walks and talks: a joint programme with the Council, including history, wild flowers and plants, butterflies, bats, the Stewardship scheme, a ghost walk and this year a 4 am dawn chorus walk.
- improving facilities: a larger dog waste bin has been ordered, in response to local need, and a sign for Hob Laine has been installed.
- practical work, eg litter clearing, tree monitoring, updating the information boards and looking out for any threats to the moor.
- liaison, eg with the Council, police, planning department, cycle officers, farmer and Environmental Agency. Council Ranger Jenny Cairns attends committee meetings and is our main point of liaison with the Council.
- monitoring the management plan: the 2010 review of nature conservation has helped us keep the Council on track when implementing the Stewardship scheme.
- the twice-yearly newsletter: this continues to be highly valued by members.
- attendance at local events: we had a stand at the Hob Moor Day and West Bank Park Fair and, for the first time, at the Acomb Green Fair.

We urgently need one or more people to help with updating and maintaining the website, and the Chairperson invited anyone interested to contact him. Training will be provided.

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

The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2011 were presented by the Treasurer. Acceptance of the Accounts was carried following a proposal by Madeline Evans and seconded by Malcolm Hainsworth.

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 Gwen Berwick and seconded by Simon Palmour, was carried.

The Treasurer explained plans to set up an optional standing order facility, which was currently being trialled. This would save participating members from having to send in a cheque each year and would mean less administration for the organisation.

5. Appointment of independent examiner of accounts

The appointment of David Ward as independent examiner of accounts was proposed by Malcolm Hainsworth, seconded by Pauline Walker and carried.

6. Election of Officers

Simon Palmour was re-elected as Chairperson: proposed by Gwen Berwick and seconded by Margaret Hainsworth and Peter Green.

Gwen Berwick stood down from the post of Secretary and Sandra McCormick was elected as her successor: proposed by Simon Palmour and seconded by Gwen Berwick and Madeline Evans.

Michael Spencer was re-elected as Treasurer: proposed by Anne Leggett and seconded by Margaret Hainsworth and Malcolm Hainsworth.

7. Election of members of the Management Committee

David McCloy stood down from the committee, and was thanked in his absence for all his hard work over the years, particularly on the website.

Elizabeth Tomlinson, Ian Tomlinson and John Wood remain for the second of their two years.

Madeline Evans was re-elected for a further two years, having been proposed by Ian Tomlinson and seconded by Peter Green.

Peter Green was re-elected, having been proposed by Elizabeth Tomlinson and seconded by Anne Leggett.

8. Any other Business

The Chairperson thanked Gwen Berwick warmly for her work on the FOHM committee.

A question was raised about the future of the Our Lady's School site. This is still unknown, but FOHM will monitor the situation and comment on any plans put forward.

Anne Leggett extended an invitation to FOHM members who were interested in doing practical work on the Moor as part of a new volunteer group, to complement the working party programme run by Jenny Cairns. Anyone interested please contact Anne on 01904 443344 or anne_leggett@yahoo.com.

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

Before the formal part of the meeting Toni Bunnell, of Helping York's Hedgehogs, gave a very informative illustrated talk on the various causes of the alarming decline in hedgehog numbers in recent years. She gave practical tips on how to help hedgehogs, and talked about her own rescue work.