

Southsea Green AGM Minutes

Tuesday 23rd May 2022

Present: Helen Fellows, Zara Baines, Irene Strange, Peta Sampson, Goff Gleadle, Esther Rodriguez, Jenni Van Wijk, Steve Baker, Sam Hollis, Simon Ridgewell, Grace Winchell and Kjersti Eldrid.

Vanessa Cooter was present for part of the meeting via video call.

Apologies: Mary Kelley, Jean Robson, Carla Read, Indi Gould, Sherry Craig, Thomas Fox, Matt (new garden volunteer)

Chair's Report – Helen Fellows

Helen shared the highlights from 2021 which included many events which were possible thanks to the COOP funding. The events received lots of positive feedback from members, volunteers and the general public.

Events included:

- Workshops and talks.
- Wendy Budd's herbal and medicine talk was very popular.
- Networking event provided opportunities to connect with other groups including the Waterfront garden centre and Brambles School. This enabled Southsea Green to reach out to communities and provide support.
- Over 60s event in collaboration with PCC
- Half term events

The final open day to celebrate the funding was very busy and many people made donations.

Money has been used to buy a shredder and a hedge trimmer.

Jenni reminded the management team that a report was needed by the COOP by June to justify the money which had been given. She was happy to write this.

Unfortunately last year's bid was unsuccessful and Jenni suggested that the theme of Wellbeing in the Gardens should be carried over. This was agreed by the management team.

Treasurer's Report – Sam Hollis

Money has come in from the grant, donations, selling the generator, Jenni's workshops and Irene's book signing.

Money out has been to enable workshops and to purchase the equipment mentioned above.

There is currently £3,325.60 in the account. An estimated £180 is needed for insurance due and £300 is to be ring fenced for emergencies.

Quotes have been received for the repair/replacement of the gate but so far these have been too expensive. Investigations will be continued under the new management team into possible groups/funding/alternatives to provide a solution.

Management Team – Election of Officers

Many members have asked to stand down from their roles and discussion was had regarding the core requirements and roles going forward. Essential requirement is chair, secretary and treasurer. Hopes were for between 6 to 8 people to share the responsibilities in a manageable capacity so that people didn't burn out which has tended to happen in the past. Jenni requested that there should be a clear understanding of what the roles are and that a new fresh management team would be able to steer a new constitution driving forward any necessary changes needed to continue the survival of the gardens. It was also suggested that members should be able to contribute to their strengths rather than being shoe horned into roles.

Chair

Helen Fellows expressed she was stepping down as chair and requested nominations.

Sam nominated Goff.

Steve offered to stand as chair.

Discussion was had as to whether the members were asking too much of Goff to stand as chair and continue in the role as head gardener. Irene asked Steve to explain his background and suitability as chair and Steve explained that he is a charity sector consultant and he now runs his own business.

Simon nominated Steve which was seconded by Goff. Position was carried with a majority vote.

Helen suggested that Goff was vice chair. There was discussion as to whether vice chair was needed. It was suggested that for the future this may be needed to sustain the garden but was not needed at this point.

It was agreed that Goff would advise Steve whenever needed and Steve thanked Goff for his support.

Treasurer

Sam Hollis is to remain in role.

Secretary

Mary Kelley is stepping down and nominations were requested.

Irene nominated Peta. Goff seconded. Position was carried with a majority vote.

Publicity /Social Media

Carla Read is stepping down and nominations were requested.

Sam nominated Zara Baines. Goff seconded. Position was carried with a majority vote.

Head Gardener

Goff Gleadle to remain in role.

Non-Specific Committee Member

Helen nominated Jenni Van Wijk. Goff seconded. Position was carried with a majority.

The role of Garden representative/Volunteer coordinator was not replaced.

Irene expressed concerns that since Covid we need a membership list and suggested a subscription would help people feel like they are part of the garden. Helen and Goff agreed that a list was needed and are working on a

process. Helen explained that Kim Farrell has expressed interest in taking on the role of membership secretary and has a useful background in HR. She also explained that the new management team would decide whether a subscription fee would be started.

AOB

- Irene expressed her pleasure that the garden is going to continue with the new management team.
- Kjersti thanked Helen her chairmanship.
- Victorious – Carla Read has taken over the organisation of the stand from Lorraine Sturrock.
- Discussion was had as to whether volunteers could offer to open gardens on other regular days. Some felt that they would like to offer days but didn't want to be alone in the garden. Goff suggested using Facebook as a way of knowing who is going to the garden. Jenni suggested that this could also be useful for an Ad Hoc arrangement.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.