

Bohemia Walled Garden Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 22nd April 2017 10am

Held at the Park Road Methodist Church, St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6RA

(1)Welcome

Mary Dawson (chair) opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Present

Christine M'Baye, Mary Dawson, Darren Windley, Susan Thomson, Lesley Bruce, Bob Hart, Sally-Ann Moseley, Wayne Parkhouse, Sue Jirbandey, Dot Hill, Rita Kandela, Julia Dance, Nigel Sinden, Dennis Day, Jessie Danquah

(2)Apologies

Chris Stovold, Mat Windley, Linda Bell, Sue Dean, Clea Davis, Justine Munro, Kamila Breen, Anna Herrieven, Sid Saunders

(3)Minutes of the 2016 AGM

Copies of the minutes were circulated and Mary asked if there were any comments.

(4)Matters arising and adoption of the 2016 AGM minutes

Mary reported that there was one item relating to the finance report raised at the meeting around cash in hand balance. We don't have this as all money is banked and was caused by a mistake in the income analysis vs amount banked. HVA issued corrected accounts and these were circulated to those present at the AGM via email on 25 April 2016. With no further matter arising the minutes were proposed to be adopted by Julia and seconded by Lesley.

(5)Trustee Annual Report for 2016 and adoption

Copies of the report were circulated with the AGM invite and copies were available at the meeting. Mary explained that since we are now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) that we are now required to report in a different format to satisfy the Charity Commission. She explained the BWGA charitable objects and explained how we will fulfil these. The second Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application was successful and the first instalment of the grant received. Some of the HLF events had taken place including the Heritage Open Day and Apple & Pumpkin Festival that were a great success. Proposed to be adopted by Sally-Ann and seconded by Dot.

(6)Action Plan for 2017 and adoption

Copies of the plan were circulated with the AGM invite and copies were available at the meeting. Mary presented a summary of the main points of this plan for activities in the year. Proposed to be adopted by Dot and seconded by Sally-Ann.

(7)Financial Report for 2016 and adoption of independent examination of accounts

Copies of the accounts were circulated with the AGM invite and copies were available at the meeting. Darren reported total income for 2016 was £51,159.24 as we received the first instalment of the Heritage Lottery grant of £48,000. The other income from BWGA events, plot fees and donations totalled £2659.24 which was £205.52 down on the previous year

Total expenditure for 2016 was £4,193.20 which included £2,296.30 for Heritage Lottery funded project items and the remainder of £1896.90 by BWGA. BWGA Expenditure was £210.69 more than the previous year.

We spent more on Equipment as we had to replace the gazebo, plastic tables and first aid kit following the fire. Repairs/Maintenance also increased as a result of the fire.

The web site and email was upgraded and we now have our own domain name of bohemiawga.org.uk which why there are IT costs.

We have now switched to making and receiving payments by BACS. 60% of 2017 plot fees were received by BACS. For payment we make via BACS there is a small charge and Darren is speaking with Natwest to see if we can get this charge waved.

Stationery/Office expenses have increased as more members have claimed for ink cartridges and paper used for BWGA business.

Accounts were adopted by the members present. The accounts have been independently reviewed by Hastings Voluntary Action.

(8)Election of Trustees

It was explained that as we are now a charity we no longer elect officers. There are currently 4 Trustees of Mary Dawson, Sue Thomson, Christine M'Baye and Darren Windley. All except for Darren were elected at the AGM in 2016 and willing to continue. Darren was elected by the Trustees in Jan 2017. Our governing document states that one third of the Trustees need to retire. Darren as not elected by the membership stood down.

Darren was willing to stand for election as a Trustee. This was proposed by Dot and seconded by Lesley.

A nomination was received for Dot to stand as a Trustee. This was proposed by Sally-Ann and seconded by Lesley.

Mary thanked Mat Windley for all his work in the garden which includes cutting the grass and maintaining things that break. She also thank Lesley Bruce for her work at the garden including managing and running the refreshment stand at events.

(9)Any Other Business

Nigel raised the following points:

1. He is keen to support and help us get drinking water into the garden and has already spoken to interested parties. This could be linking in with the nearby housing development on the former Summerfields Business Park.
2. Suggested that we add more links to local interest (e.g. museum, Hastings week, etc.) to our links page on web site.
3. Please can the BWGA link in with the Hastings Week committee. Contact Ion Castro

Mary raised the following points:

1. Justine Munro has kindly offered to organise a social event for members in the garden in June/July. Suggested time was 4pm onwards so families with children can attend. Those members present thought this was a good idea.
2. The tool shed was broken into around the 18th April 2017. No tools were taken. The door frame was damaged and a local carpenter Jamie Jones has repaired it at very short notice for which we are most grateful to Darren for arranging.

The meeting concluded at 10.50am and refreshments followed.