



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

BRIGHTON & HOVE GREEN SPACES FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date / Time – Tuesday 26th February 2020, 5pm to 6pm

Venue – Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton

ATTENDEES	
Debbie Pryer	Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden
James Newmarch	B & H Wildlife Forum
Peter Spence	Albion Community Association
Louise Arnold	FO Beacon Hill
Russ Greenwood	FO Beacon Hill
Stuart Grainger	Palmeira & Adelaide Garden Fund
Glyn Edbrooke	FO Vale Park
Michael Creedy	Brighton Peace & Environment Centre
Daniela Krasnanova	Norfolk Square Garden
Gill Taylor	Hollingbury & Burstead Wods
Richard	The Level Forum
John Patmore	B & H Wildlife Forum
Alan Moon. Committee	FO Hove Park
Melanie Davis. Committee	FO St Ann's Well
Denise Taylor. Committee	B & H City in Bloom
Cliff Munn. Chair	St. Peters Churchyard Volunteers

APOLOGIES	
Karen Rigby-Faux	Greenhavens Network
Juliette Hunting	Brunswick Town in Bloom
Rich Howorth	The Patch
Trisha Gaskell-Watkins	B & H City in Bloom,
Cllr. Pete West	Brighton & Hove Way
Fiona Bower	Brunswick Square
John Funnel	B & H Archaeological Society
Chris Tredgold	St. Peters Churchyard Volunteers
Adrian Hart	Amex Area Action Forum
Vivienne Barton	B&H Green Spaces Forum Committee
Judith Taylor	Palmeira & Adelaide Fund
Emma Houldsworth	PLOT 22

1. Welcome by Chair Cliff Munn

All attendees introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Apologies

The names of those from who apologies were received were read through.

3. Chairman's 2019 Report

The Chairman's 2019 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. A copy can be found at Appendix A of these minutes.

4. Treasurer's 2019 Report

The Treasurer's 2019 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. The financial summary for 2019 can be found at Appendix B of these minutes.

5. Election of Officers

Committee member Neil Rosborough (Friends of Regency Square) resigned in October 2019.

Denise Taylor announced her retirement from the Forum committee. The Chair overviewed some of Denise's achievements over the last few years. She was instrumental in the creation of the Forum and its expansion to what it is today. The Chair thanked Denise for her considerable contribution.

The following nominations were officially endorsed by being seconded with a show of hands:

Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Cliff Munn – CityParks Ranger Volunteer & St Peters Churchyard Volunteer.

Committee Members

Melanie Davis – Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens

Vivienne Barton – CityParks Ranger Volunteer

Alan Moon – Friends of Hove Park

Debbie Pryer – Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden

It was noted that three key Forum roles were held by one individual. This is not sustainable and can only be a short term arrangement that must be resolved before the next AGM.

All present were reminded that they do not have to wait for an AGM to express interest in becoming a committee member.

The AGM formalities were concluded.

6. Any Other Business

Brighton & Hove Tree Strategy Consultation.

The long awaited proposed tree strategy for the City was discussed. It has been published in draft format for some months. It is a long document worthy of close scrutiny and will be out for public consultation very soon. It details the future strategy for trees across the city and in its current form has significant implications for the future of street trees in situations where pavements are narrow.

The draft tree strategy can be viewed at [https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000823/M00009507/AI00075618/\\$20190930111810_020276_0066604_BHCCTreeStrategyworkingdraft9.docxA.ps.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000823/M00009507/AI00075618/$20190930111810_020276_0066604_BHCCTreeStrategyworkingdraft9.docxA.ps.pdf)

The Forum will circulate access to the consultation as soon as it is available.

City Parks Ranger Volunteers.

The CityParks Ranger volunteer team was discussed. It is unique in that it works at different locations across the city every week. The team are happy to help green space volunteer groups with any larger tasks that need extra people or expertise. They are always open to new members joining and now come together on both Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information see the article at:

<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2019/ranger-volunteer-team-set-expand?fbclid=IwAR29CMwrzmHKVOU8oMGfuVIL1roYzw1i8cZmANvdkSLw-b5ZiOmKecO4cko>

Volunteer communication with the Council

A number of examples were discussed re the poor responsiveness of B&H City Council officers to requests from volunteer groups. Also where groups working on Council owned but not CityParks managed sites go for help.

The Chair requested that facts associated with recent examples of this be Emailed to the Forum at bhgsforum@gmail.com . They will then be used in a forthcoming meeting with the B&H Assistant Director of Environment.

The meeting ended at 6pm

Appendices A and B follow:

APPENDIX A



2020 AGM – 26th February 2020 – Chairman’s Report for 2019

The Forum was launched in October 2017, it is fully constituted and has a bank account. Membership continued to grow through 2019 and currently sits at 92 groups (78 of which are site specific). All member groups have been fully validated, their details can be found on the Forum website at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/friends-of-groups/>. This continues to be recognised as the ‘go to’ location for quality information on our city’s green space volunteer community.

Key deliverables through 2019 include:

1. Our Website, Facebook and Twitter Pages are getting increasing traffic.
2. Member survey on training needs completed using student resource. Results have helped enable ongoing delivery of volunteer leadership training (all output in website ‘Resources’).
3. 45 groups are now working more independently as a result of volunteer leadership accreditation.
4. Partner links built with adjoining green space volunteer networks including the Greenhavens Network, Adur & Worthing Greenspace Partnership (Greentides) and Eastbourne. First meeting of South Coast Green Space Network Alliance held in November.
5. Formal partnerships with the Living Coast and National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces being maximised. NFPGS Regional Conference held in September in Brighton.
6. Strong links with Community Works, committee member Melanie Davies represents the green space volunteer community with them.
7. RHS ‘In Bloom’ and B&H City in Bloom awards promoted, particularly the free community based ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ and B&H competitions. It was very rewarding to see groups improving their scores and those that had never previously entered taking part.
8. A members Open Forum meeting in January saw representatives from 25 volunteer groups in attendance. This meeting helped shape Forum priorities over the year.
9. Our first Spring Seminar was held in early March with over 80 people attending. Presentations from Prof Dave Goulson, the Wildflower Conservation Society and CityParks Head Gardeners / Rangers receiving great feedback (slides in website ‘Resources’).
10. A members meeting was held in October with presentations from the B&H Food Partnership and Tree Wardens. This facilitated some great networking between members.
11. Delivered 2 Newsletters (May & December – see website ‘Resources’).
12. Committee members represented green space volunteers at over 40 meetings across the year. A list can be provided on request.

Challenges for the coming year:

Build and cement partnerships, encourage use of website functionality, deliver our second spring seminar (10th March), work with senior Council officers on improvement of communications between member groups and B&H Council.

CHAIRMAN (Cliff Munn)..... Date: 26th February 2020

APPENDIX B



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum

Income / Expenditure 2019

1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

INCOME

Community Works Payments £800

Total Income £800

EXPENDITURE

Website Management £100

Expenses & Travel £136

Open Forum Event & AGM (January) £299

Spring Seminar (March) £597

Members Meeting (October) £267

Total Expenditure £1399

INCOME VS EXPENDITURE £599

TREASURER (Cliff Munn)..... Date: 26th February 2020