



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

BRIGHTON & HOVE GREEN SPACES FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date / Time – Tuesday 9th February 2021, 5pm to 6pm

Virtual meeting using Zoom

ATTENDEES	
Chris Tredgold	St Peter's Churchyard Volunteers
Fiona Bower	Friends of Brunswick Square and Terraces
Kate Kirkham	Brighton and Hove Food Partnership & FO St Ann's Well Gardens
Judith Taylor	Palmeira & Adelaide Garden Fund
Bernadette Skinner	Ovingdean Community
Sue Johnson	Friends of Hove Lagoon
Rosemary Friedel	Keep the Ridge Green
James Newmarch – new Committee member	Brighton and Hove Wildlife Forum & FO Brighton Greenway
Elspeth Broady	FO Brighton Greenway, London Road Station Partnership & Level Community Forum
Robert Stephenson	Roundhill Society
Louise Arnold	Friends of Beacon Hill
Maureen Winder	Level Community Forum
Viv Casey	Brighton and Hove Organic Gardens
Melanie Davis- Committee	Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens
Alan Moon - Committee	Friends of Hove Park
Cliff Munn - Committee	City Park Rangers & St Peter's Churchyard Volunteers
Vivienne Barton- Committee	City Parks Rangers Volunteer
Debbie Pryer - Committee	Stanford and Cleveland Community Garden
Sally Cranfield	Friends of Blakers Park
Sue Korman	Friends of Blakers Park
Clare Hopkins	Woodingdean Wilderness

APOLOGIES	
Denise Taylor	
Julia De-Silva	Norfolk Square Garden

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. Matters Arising from previous AGM

Brighton & Hove Tree Strategy Consultation - a draft document has been published worthy of close scrutiny and was due for public consultation in 2020. 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_BHCC_TreeStrategyworkingdraft9.docxA.ps.pdf](https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000823/M00009507/AI00075618/$20190930111810_020276_0066604_BHCC_TreeStrategyworkingdraft9.docxA.ps.pdf) The Forum will circulate access to the consultation as soon as it is available. Update – consultation delayed due to Covid - **ONGOING**

City Parks Ranger Volunteers – Details of how to join and make use of this valuable mobile volunteer group have been publicised in Forum Newsletters during 2020 - **DISCHARGED**

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 specific examples of this be Emailed to the Forum at bhgsforum@gmail.com . Update - **ONGOING**

4. Chairman's 2020 Report

The Chairman's 2020 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. A copy can be found at Appendix A of these minutes.

5. Treasurer's 2019 Report

The Treasurer's 2020 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. The financial summary for 2020 can be found at Appendix B of these minutes.

6. Election of Officers

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

Chair and Secretary

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

Treasurer

Vivienne Barton – CityParks Ranger Volunteer

Committee Members

Melanie Davis – Friends of St Ann’s Well Gardens

James Newmarch – B&H Wildlife Forum & FO Brighton Greenway

Alan Moon – Friends of Hove Park

Debbie Pryer – Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden

The Chair welcomed James Newmarch and thanked him for agreeing to join the Forum committee. 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.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Vivienne Barton asked members to let her know about any special trees in their neighbourhoods. The trees may be special because of their great age, height, girth, beauty or historical, cultural significance. She has been working with local volunteers to identify some of Brighton and Hove's great trees, 50 of which have so far been uploaded on ticl. <https://ticl.me/Brighton/headlines/13814/view>

Please send any details to Vivienne at larkfieldway@hotmail.co.uk

7.2 B&H CityParks Volunteer Leader training and accreditation was discussed (see Chairman’s report). Any groups who work on CityParks managed sites and have members who would like to apply for this training, should Email CityParks at Cityparks.volunteers@brighton-hove.gov.uk

7.3 Forum to set up and area specific meeting for volunteer groups from East side of the City.

7.4 All member groups were asked to check their contact details on the Forum website at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/friends-of-groups/> Any request for update to be Emailed to the Forum Secretary at bhgsforum@gmail.com

The meeting ended at 6pm

Appendices A and B follow:



2021 AGM – 9th February 2021 – Chairman’s Report for 2020

The Forum was launched in October 2017, it is fully constituted with membership currently sitting at 91 groups (77 of which are site specific). All member groups have been 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 2020 include:

1. The last significant event of 2020 was our Spring Seminar at Brighthelm on 10th March. This was very well attended (around 100) with excellent feedback. Presentations from ex Blue Peter Gardener Chris Collins, Author / Presenter Kate Bradbury and Stanmer Park Ranger Will Furze (slides available from Forum website ‘Resources’).
2. Since 23rd March 2020 Covid-19 has had an enormous impact on the activities of member groups. They have faced varying levels of lockdown and currently (Jan/Feb 2021) those groups working on CityParks sites are not able to work at all.
3. The Forum has liaised closely with B&H CityParks throughout the year who work through us for communications out to green space volunteer groups.
4. Our Website, Facebook and Twitter Pages remain active. Website ‘Resources’ pages include much useful information, including details of Covid Risk Assessments.
5. We supported the 2020 initiatives on Dutch Elm Disease prevention. The DED spotters guide is hosted on the Forum website.
6. Around 45 groups are now working more independently as a result of volunteer leadership accreditation. Accredited groups do find it easier to gain help and support from CityParks who are intending to start training volunteer leaders again as soon as the situation allows.
7. The Forum has strong links with Community Works and the ‘Living Coast’, committee member Melanie Davies represents the green space volunteer community with them.
8. The Forum delivered 3 Newsletters (January, May & December – see website ‘Resources’). We had particularly good feedback on our December edition which included 12 individual group updates. We will approach groups again to request their input for our Spring edition.
9. The Forum produced a member’s view on the impact of lockdown on their green spaces. This was shared with City Council committees and used as a reference document. See website ‘Resources’.
10. The Forum won a CPRE Countryside Silver Award for ‘connecting people and the countryside’. This was great recognition of the value of our community of green space volunteer groups.

Challenges for the coming year:

- To assist member groups as they emerge from lockdown.
- Work with Council officers on improvement of communications member groups and B&H Council.
- To find new and alternative methods by which we can help members interact – eg Zoom.

CHAIRMAN (Cliff Munn)..... Date: 8th February 2021



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum

Income / Expenditure 2020

1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

INCOME

Community Works Payments £1000

Total Income £1000

EXPENDITURE

Spring Seminar (10th March) £1005

Expenses & Travel £234

Open Forum & AGM (27th February) £90

Room Hire £54

Website Management £51

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £1434

INCOME VS EXPENDITURE £434

TREASURER (Cliff Munn)..... Date: 7th February 2021