



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

BRIGHTON & HOVE GREEN SPACES FORUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date / Time – Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 5pm

Virtual meeting using Zoom

ATTENDEES	
Denise Taylor - Committee	Keep the Ridge Green (Green Ridge)
Alan Cooke - Committee	FO Craven Wood & East Brighton Green Spaces Network
Les Gunbie	Community Works – Environment/Sustainability Rep
Lin MacCullum Stewart	B&H Wildlife Forum
Anna Muten	Wildflower Conservation Society & Hangleton & Knoll Project
James Newmarch - Committee	B&H Wildlife Forum & FO The Greenway
Juliette Hunting	LARA Brunswick in Bloom
Alan Moon - Committee	FO Hove Park
Melanie Davis - Committee	Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens
Cliff Munn - Committee	City Park Ranger Vols & St Peter's Churchyard Volunteers
Debbie Pryer - Committee	Stanford Community Garden
Maureen Winder - Committee	The Level Communities Forum & B&H City Councillor
Fran Coates	Regency Square Community
Sally Cranfield	FO Blakers Park
Isa Martin	FO Preston Park

APOLOGIES	
Claire Millet Hopkins	Woodingdean Wilderness
Penny Hudd	CPRE Sussex
Sue Kalicinska	St Aubyns Pocket Park

1. Welcome by Chair Cliff Munn

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was confirmed as quorate (ie 8 or more Forum member groups were represented).

2. Apologies

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

3. Matters Arising from previous AGM

A new RHS Community Gardening survey was discussed and will be communicated by email to all member groups. **Survey communicated to all members on 3rd March 2025 and again using Facebook on Nov 2025.**

DISCHARGED - DT

FO Blakers Park have initiated a petition re the dog free area in the park. This will be shared with all member groups. **Petition shared with all members in March 2025. Agreement subsequently unanimously reached within the Council to re-instate the dog free area. DISCHARGED - DT**

4. Chairman's 2025 Report

The Chairman's 2025 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. A copy can be found at Appendix A.

5. Treasurer's 2025 Report

The Treasurer's 2025 Report was delivered and accepted by all present. A copy can be found at Appendix B.

6. Secretary's 2025 Update

The Secretary's 2025 Update can be seen at Appendix C.

7. Election of Officers

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

Chair

Cliff Munn – CityParks Ranger Volunteer, Lookerer & St Peters Churchyard Volunteer

Secretary

Denise Taylor – Keep the Ridge Green (Green Ridge)

Treasurer

Alan Cooke – FO Craven Wood & East Brighton Green Spaces Network

Committee Members

Melanie Davis – FO 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

Maureen Winder – The Level Communities Forum

The Chair thanked the Forum Committee Members for their contributions during 2025.

The AGM formalities were concluded.

7. Any Other Business

In light of the departure of Chenine Bhathena (City Council Director of Culture & Environment). CM will lead on refreshing the interface between the Green Space volunteer community and Council. **Action CM**

The meeting ended at 5.45pm, Appendices A, B and C follow:



BHGSF AGM – 25th February 2026 – Chairman’s Report for 2025

The Forum was formally launched in October 2017, it is fully constituted with a membership currently sitting at 104 groups (around 80 of which are site specific). Member group details can be found on the Forum website at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/friends-of-groups/> This links to the City Council website and continues to be recognised as the ‘go to’ location for quality information on our city’s green space volunteer community.

The primary role of the Forum is to provide a communications hub for Green Space volunteer groups actively working in the city’s parks and green spaces.

Key deliverables through 2025 include:

1. The Forum managed around 100 member queries and questions over the year.
2. Our Website and Facebook pages remained active – see at <https://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/> With the website ‘Resources’ pages carrying an array of useful information.
3. Our member Group locator map continues to receive excellent feedback.
4. We continued to support the local initiatives on Dutch Elm Disease (DED) prevention. The DED spotters guide is hosted on the Resources page of the Forum website.
5. Over 50 member groups continue to work independently as a result of the CityParks volunteer leadership accreditation scheme. Accredited groups find it much easier to gain help and support from CityParks. Volunteer Leader courses (plus associated First Aid training) can be applied for by writing to Cityparks.volunteers@brighton-hove.gov.uk
6. The Forum retains its active membership of Community Works.
7. The Forum continued its membership of the National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces (NFPGS).
8. The Forum sent out Newsletters in May and November. We continue to receive great feedback on our Newsletters, particularly the individual group updates.
9. The Forum has maintained its Zoom account which it uses for committee and member meetings.
10. On 13th May the Brighton & Hove City Council’s Director of Culture & Environment, Chenine Bhatena hosted an online meeting for Forum members. Chenine covered a number of themes and responded to around 20 questions from member groups. Notes from the meeting, including a recording of it, were shared with members on 14th May. Her written responses to all the questions asked were shared with members on 26th May.

11. Sadly our 2024 Autumn Seminar scheduled for September 2025 had to be postponed to 26th January 2026 (re-named the 2026 Early Spring Seminar). Key Note Presenters included Jean Griffin from South & South East in Bloom, Rob Boyle Head Gardener at the Royal Pavilion and Sarah Dobson from the Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere. Over 40 groups were represented with around 90 guests in attendance, feedback has been very good. The slide pack used at the event can be viewed from the Resources page of the Forum website.

Challenges for the coming year:

- To continue to represent the green space volunteer community with the Council's Culture & Environment directorate / CityParks.
- To publish two Newsletters
- To Audit our full membership
- To identify and articulate the value (hours and £) of our community's contribution

CHAIRMAN (Cliff Munn) Date: 25th February 2026

APPENDIX B



BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM

Accounts January - December 2025						
Bank Account - Metro Bank, Account Number ****2014						
					£	
Opening Balance January 1st 2025					£4,022.67	
Income:					-	
		From		Banked	Amount	Details
		Cumulative			£0.00	
Expenditure:						
Method	Number	to	Written	Cashed	Amount	Details
CHQ	800057	Richard Cobden	Jan-06	Jan-21	£80.00	Web domain and hosting
CHQ	800058	Zoom (CM)	Feb-11	Feb-24	£155.88	Zoom renewal fee
CHQ	800059	Cheque cancelled				
CHQ	800060	Red Cow Design	Jul-31		£45.00	
CHQ	800061	Brighton Quaker Meeting	Sep-07		£140.00	Seminar cancellation fee
		Cumulative			£420.88	
Closing Balance December 31st 2025					£3,601.79	
Alan Cooke, BHGSF Treasurer						
Outstanding cheques as at February 25th 2026:						
CHQ	800062	Red Cow Design	Jan-05	Jan-14	£88.50	Web domain and hosting
CHQ	800063	Seminar	Jan-26		£50.00	Seminar expenses
CHQ	800064	Seminar	Jan-26	Jan-28	£89.00	Seminar expenses
CHQ	800065	Seminar	Jan-26		£19.94	Seminar expenses
CHQ	800066	Brighton Quaker Meeting	Jan-26		£329.00	Seminar - room hire
CHQ	800067	Cheque cancelled				
CHQ	800068	Zoom (CM)	Feb-12		£155.88	Zoom renewal fee
		Cumulative			£732.32	
Current Balance February 25th 2026					£2,869.47	

TREASURER (Alan Cooke) Date: 25th February 2026

APPENDIX C



BHGSF AGM – 25th February 2026 – Secretary’s Update

The secretary (Denise Taylor) outlined the mainly administrative nature of the role and expressed appreciation for the Chair, Committee, and volunteers, while confirming her commitment to continue for another year.

She emphasised the importance of the twice-yearly newsletters, thanking groups for their contributions and highlighting how effective they are in connecting member groups, councils and the wider greenspace community. The newsletters help maintain strong relationships and have contributed to Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum being regarded as exemplary.

Despite having no funding and serving a smaller population, the Forum has over 100 affiliated groups—one of the highest memberships in the UK—comparing favourably with larger or funded forums elsewhere. It has also been recognised as a case study of success by the National Federation of Green Spaces.

The secretary stressed that communication with member groups is vital and encouraged sharing news, events and updates for promotion via Facebook, the website, events page and interactive map (this can be done by emailing the Forum Secretary at bhgsforum@gmail.com). She also reiterated that member contact details will soon be updated and concluded by thanking volunteers for their ongoing work and engagement with the Forum, underlining the importance of maintaining strong connections.

SECRETARY (Denise Taylor) Date: 25th February 2026