

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Cannizaro Park

Hotel du Vin, Cannizaro House, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## **PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** Chris Mountford (Chair), Simon Ingall (Treasurer), Jeremy Lumbers (Acting Secretary); Catherine Nelson; Caroline Newsholme; Anne Peacock; Stuart Vere; Juliet Willis; Alison Young;  
and 17 further Members. The meeting was declared Quorate.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from: Joe Ruston and Rosie Gent.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

The Minutes of the last AGM held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 **were approved.**

## **3. CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2018-2019**

The Chair reported on the work undertaken by the Board of Trustees in the previous year and expressed thanks to the Trustees for their contributions. In addition, the Chair also expressed thanks to all the volunteers who had worked on many projects in the park during the year.

Particular note was made of the generous anonymous donation that funded the provision of a water supply and electricity to the Aviary. Also Volunteer Joe Ruston very kindly managed the project and arranged for all necessary professional certification.

Special thanks were also given to:

- Hotel du Vin who have agreed to fully fund the annual cost of planting in the Sunken Garden – currently £3,000. In addition the hotel kindly provides a room for Committee Meetings and other events such as the Spring Talk and the Bridge Afternoon at no charge.
- Den Anderson (ex Secretary) who continues to organise the very successful Bridge Afternoon, which raised over £1,400 in November 2018.

#### **4. TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2018-2019**

The Treasurer presented the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

Expenditure for the year increased from about £4,100 to £11,500, but thanks to generous donations and Gift Aid claims there was a small increase in the overall funds available for future projects.

The Treasurer thanked the Independent Examiner, Colin Price for his work.

#### **5. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

The Chair proposed that other Simon Ingall, Catherine Nelson, and Pit Rink be elected to serve as Trustees until the conclusion of the next AGM. **This was approved unanimously.**

The Chair proposed that the other existing Trustees namely Chris Mountford, Caroline Newsholme, Jeremy Lumbers, Anne Peacock, Stuart Vere, Juliet Willis and Alison Young be re-elected to serve until the conclusion of the next AGM. **This was approved unanimously.**

#### **6. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

It was agreed that Colin Price be re-appointed as Independent Examiner until the conclusion of the next AGM.

#### **7. TO APPROVE AN UPDATED CONSTITUTION**

Simon Ingall explained the Constitution was being updated to align in general with the latest model constitution available from the Charity Commission. The proposed changes have been available for review on the website together with a note of explanation. **Updating the Constitution was approved unanimously.**

#### **8. CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS**

Anne Peacock (Volunteer Manager) gave a presentation on the substantial achievements of the Volunteers over the year as described in the Chair's Report.

Catherine Nelson described the future plans including:

- improving communications with the Friends through Noticeboards; Website enhancements; a new Membership System
- a 'Playbook of Opportunities' describing the focus of investments starting with the Park Entrance, the Aviary Junction and the Tennis Court Garden
- identifying opportunities for co-funding and donations to support projects in the park.

## 9. MEMBERS' ITEMS

The following suggestions and comments were made by the Friends:

Information on who owns the Park, the role of the Friends and the relationship to the Hotel du Vin would be useful to visitors if added to the Noticeboard, recognising the need to avoid too many noticeboards. **It was agreed to provide this information in the new noticeboard.**

It was noted that there were many memorial plaques that had been placed in the Park without the approval of the London Borough of Merton (LBM). **Chris Mountford agreed to discuss with the LBM.**

The deterioration of the path to the Bog Garden was reported and Chris Mountford confirmed that this was on our list of proposed work. However, improvements to the drainage are needed and this would require significant expenditure by LBM with contributions as appropriate from the Friends.

A request for tree labels similar to the small black labels used in Kew Gardens was requested to help the Tree Trail. Anne Peacock confirmed that labels were being produced.

A Friend asked whether the Trustees were happy with the maintenance being provided by idVerde. Chris Mountford confirmed reasonable satisfaction regarding such matters as grass cutting; much improved litter collection; cleaning of the toilets that are now open during the Summer and on weekends and Bank Holidays, but there was a lack of skilled gardening staff working in the Park.

A suggestion was made for a Children's Area to be created in the Park which also have the benefit of increasing the 'footfall' in Wimbledon Village. Reference was made to the success of the Natural Playground in Polesden Lacey, National Trust and also to the Log Trail in Kew Gardens. Chris Mountford reported that in previous discussions with the LBM had been unsupportive on the grounds of safety, access and supervision. **It was agreed to discuss again with LBM.**

## 10. AOB

There were no matters raised and the meeting was duly closed.