



THE FRIENDS OF Rowntree Park

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2009 Annual General Meeting report

Our AGM for 2009

Our AGM for 2009 was held on 21 October in the Clementhorpe Community Centre on Lower Ebor Street. The meeting was chaired by Mike Heyworth. We were pleased to welcome Dave Meigh, Head of Parks & Open Spaces at the City of York Council, who updated members on various aspects relating to the management of the Park.

Membership

Naomi reported that there are 266 member households, comprising about 574 people. Many receive their mailings by email, which is both labour-saving and cost-effective.

Constitution and governance

A new constitution for the Friends was agreed by the meeting, aimed at ensuring that the Friends would be eligible to register as a charity in England and Wales with the Charity Commission.

The proposed Charity will be overseen by a group of trustees elected at the meeting. Those elected were Mike Heyworth (Chair), Cath Mortimer (Secretary), Naomi Whittaker (Treasurer & Membership Secretary), Kate Lock, Lara McClure, Lyn Kellett, John Dowell & Chris Dowell.

A revised membership arrangement is required for the new constitution and from now on members will have to be individual adults. In practice, we propose that one adult per household becomes a member and everyone from that household will be eligible to attend meetings and participate in all activities organised by the Friends.

Membership fee

A small increase in the annual membership fee from £3 to £4 was agreed to help fund an improved newsletter and increased activities next year.

Finances

Naomi reported that income for the year ending 30 September 2009 had been £5668.33. Expenditure for the same period had been lower at £1624.32, leaving a balance of £5720.08 in the bank account, however there were two sizeable accounts to be settled in the coming weeks that would reduce this by some £4,000. This would still leave a healthy balance for the year ahead.

Very Young Friends

The Very Young Friends of Rowntree Park continue to meet regularly each month. A core group of 8 to 10 families meet no matter what the weather or season, but as many as 40 families attend some events. Thanks were passed to both Naomi and Lara for continuing to run the events.

Projects

Mike Heyworth reported on all the work undertaken by the Friends over the year, in conjunction with the City of York Council. The main developments related to the Ark in the Park, the plans to improve biodiversity in the Park, and various art and community activity projects that had been run in the Park during the year. Thanks were due to everyone for their time and energy.

2010 AGM date

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held at Clementhorpe Community Centre, Lower Ebor Street, York on Wednesday 20th October starting at 7.30pm.

Contact for further information

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