

## Jesus Green Association

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 5 December 2012 held in the Wesley church at 7.30 p.m.

The chairman Peter Constable welcomed the 24 people present, who included 4 members of the committee, himself, George Hill, John Lawton and Anthony Bowen, 4 councillors, Tim Bick, Andrea Reiner and Rod Cantrill of the City and Sarah Whitebread and Ian Manning of the County and 2 members of Wicksteed of Kettering, very experienced designers of children's playgrounds.

Wicksteed have the contract to refurbish the play area on Jesus Green. There will be consultation, in particular with children of Park Street school, with a view to ordering equipment in January and installation in March. Questions were asked about fencing (for the younger children's area), the overall size (to be a little larger than present), the site (east or west of the pool) and drainage and protection during stabilisation. PC thanked Wicksteed for their presentation; there were plenty of pictures.

1. Apologies were recorded from Richard Price, Jo Morrison and Blake Alcott (members of committee), Sarah Tovell, Pip Noon and Neil Anderson.
2. Minutes of the AGM of 5 December 2011 were accepted. There were no matters arising not on the agenda.
3. The attendance register showed that the meeting was quorate.
4. It was agreed nem. con. to have no subscription. Those present were encouraged to make donations, as are all members and friends.
5. RP's Treasurer's report showed a balance of £123.51 and a deficit on the year of £19.66, half the previous year's deficit. The cost of insurance was noted (£57), as was the subscription to Cambridge Past Present and Future (£40). PC recommended both, as necessary and useful respectively. The report was accepted. It had been audited by Victoria Zeitlyn, who was thanked and invited to continue that office.
6. David Edgar spoke on the Jesus Lock gardens, reporting work done by him and his fellow gardeners and the help of the Cam Conservators. PC thanked them and added the emailed thanks of Pip Noon for the Conservators, who saw an opportunity for an artist to display some works at the lock. Alan Tongue, member, agreed to approach a local artist who might be interested or could suggest someone else.
7. JL, secretary, reported 159 supporters, of whom 45 were members, and a twitter following of 70 (30 last year).
8. PC presented his report, thanking his fellow committee members, who had met 7 times, and the Jesus Green working group chaired by Cllr Reiner, which had met 5 times. The third failure to win Heritage Lottery funds was a disappointment, due not to a poor bid – HLF praised it – but to plentiful competition from areas in greater need; we looked now to the Councils for work on the paths and lighting, on drainage, on the Victoria Avenue entrance and on the Rouse Ball pavilion. These matters would be pursued at JG working group meetings, together with bins, benches, Jesus ditch and trees. PC invited Councillors' comments; helpful contributions were made. There was a plea from a member not to tidy up too much, but to preserve a certain rusticity. JGA was encouraged to ask English Heritage to list the lights on the Plane tree avenue, before Balfour-Beatty, who have the contract for the County's lights, replaced them without care or consultation.
9. PC proposed for election, all being eligible, himself as chairman (for the last time), George Hill as vice-chairman, John Lawton as secretary and Richard Price (for the last time) as treasurer. He also proposed Blake Alcott and Jo Morrison as committee members and Anthony Bowen as representative of Jesus College. All were elected nem. con. He thanked BA for his work on Jesus

ditch, Jeremy Pursglove (who had stood down from committee) for his offer of continuing help, and particularly Martin Thompson (who was present), who upon moving from the area had stood down as vice-chairman; he had given many years of valuable service.

10. The meeting was thrown open. Questions were asked about
- a) the joint policy document of JGA and Friends of Midsummer Common made in 2009: the two bodies had since proceeded separately but harmoniously.
  - b) Caesarian and Suicide Sundays: AB explained the work being done in Jesus College, to deter bad behaviour; Cllr Cantrill noted police awareness of the dates of both for 2013 and the need for their better preparedness if students abused public spaces.
  - c) Use of Jesus Green by students when bad weather prevented use of their college grounds: Cllr Cantrill noted the letter sent by the City Council to colleges, and a member explained how seriously Colleges took such letters; a role for a park warden was noted, and Cllr Cantrill sketched a possibility.
  - d) The Rouse Ball pavilion: after its proposal as a West/Central area project in September it had been transferred to a City-wide list for consideration for section 106 moneys, together with drainage; a decision would be made on 17 January, and speeches in support were welcome (Cllr Reiner subsequently invited AB and two people interested in the catering facility to coordinate speeches); it was agreed, thanks to careful explanation by Cllr Cantrill, to sustain both projects. He would look at the City's costing of the drainage project (£120,000) in the light of what the Beer Festival had done more simply. The pavilion probably needed to be rebuilt, not refurbished
  - e) Burnt grass: patches were fewer, whether due to the notices or the poor weather or both. Sainsburys and the Co-op had been advised not to sell equipment without warning customers of the bye-law.
  - f) Invasive bus: the cause of the accident remained obscure; the company, not Cambridge based, had been advised about speed.
11. PC closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

Peter Constable (chairman)