

## Jesus Green Association

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of 3 December 2013 held in the Wesley church at 7.30 p.m.

The acting chairman Peter Constable welcomed the 16 people present, who included 4 members of the committee, himself, Anthony Bowen, Jo Morrison and Richard Price.

1. Apologies were recorded from Blake Alcott, George Hill and John Lawton (members of committee), David Ifold and all local councillors.
2. Minutes of the AGM of 5 December 2012 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. Donations were encouraged.
5. RP, Hon. Treasurer, reported a loss on the year of £48.52 but a balance of £74.99. From this could be subtracted £40 , our subscription to that useful body Cambridge Past Present and Future, which will appear in next year's accounts. The City Council had granted us £150, which would cover that subscription, our public liability insurance and hire of the room for the AGM. His report was accepted. It had been audited by Victoria Zeitlyn. Thanks to her and an invitation to continue in that office were made by PC and agreed.
6. JL, secretary, reported 49 supporters on the email list and 160 subscribers to the Announce email list. In his absence AB reported three meetings of the committee, various exchanges by email and two meetings of the Jesus Green working group (chaired by Cllr. Andrea Reiner).
7. As there were no nominations for officers and as existing officers had mostly done their permitted time, PC suggested a continuation committee be appointed of existing members: himself, Blake Alcott, Anthony Bowen (representing the Bursar of Jesus College), George Hill, John Lawton, Jo Morrison and Richard Price. Roger Chatterton proposing and Vanessa Price seconding, this was agreed.
8. David Edgar rported on the Jesus Lock gardens, thanking his two colleagues for their help. The beds on the island had now been tended for three and a half years, but that work was interrupted this summer for 4 months as the Environment Agency had to work on the sluice; he had divided some plants and taken them home in the interim. A vote of thanks was agreed to all three.
9. PC, acting chairman, noted concerns of the year: drainage, the Plane tree avenue, the Rouse Ball pavilion, the children's play area, repair of benches and barbecue control. Details and questions ensued.

- a) drainage: David Ifold's report was awaited; the area concerned was that NE of the Plane tree avenue, and study had not been made of the other side where flooding also occurred. Land drains were unlikely to be recommended; sumps and pumps were possible, or some other device of surface drainage.
- b) Plane tree avenue: plans and pictures of proposals from the last Jesus Green working group meeting were available. The path was to be widened and raised on the degraded NE side and levelled. JM explained how a cellular mesh would protect the tree roots from further pressure. There would be feathering to avoid a drop at the edge. Existing lamps would be kept where they were (but the County Council's agents Balfour Beatty needed to be watched); it was noted that many were not working, and PC urged people to report them, using the tag on the lamp post. Formal separation of cyclists and pedestrians was urged, whether by white lines or different surface colouring; it would be hard to enforce. It was desirable that the access path from Victoria Avenue be the same width as the new Plane tree avenue (progress on the hammerhead was stalled).
- c) Rouse Ball pavilion: an estimate of £450,000 three years ago for repair or reconstruction had risen to £800,000; the state of the pavilion was worse than it looked, and reconstruction would allow a small increase of its footprint, something which the Heritage Lottery people had endorsed when commending the proposals made in the last bid for funding. The pavilion was named for a fellow of Trinity College (and also a City Councillor) who left money for its building 90 years ago; it was hoped the College might take an interest, as the City's present allocation of some £200,000 was inadequate; perhaps the Big Lottery would help. The future of the Lock Cottage (owned by the Cam Conservators) was a related issue: if it became available, there could be coherence of use. It was noted that the Council's programme of refurbishment of public toilets had omitted the pavilion: could there be longer opening hours at least in the summer?
- d) Children's play area: the wholly refurbished and slightly extended area had been opened by the Mayor assisted by children from Park Street School on 25 October. It was a great success, to add to the refurbished and extended Skateboard area. The inner area for young children was fenced; Bert Kenward, organiser of the Beer Festival, drew attention to the need not to shut off access to the sewer if an outer fence was constructed.
- e) A new bench was to be placed on the Green and old ones were to be repaired.

- f) Barbecues had caused slightly more damage than last year, but it had been well and speedily repaired. People thought the City Rangers should make themselves more visible at later hours to dissuade improper barbecues.
  - g) More collections of rubbish had been made; in the litter (less this year) the frequency of Sainsbury's bags was noted. New bins were eagerly awaited; one was needed by the Skateboard area.
  - h) Table Tennis tables were welcomed: what about the erosion of grass at either end, however? Mats to prevent mud and slipping were urgently needed.
  - i) The ramp to the footbridge was slippery: PC reported the possibility of a new design for the Green end of the bridge; users with and without wheels might be separated, as at the Cutter Ferry bridge.
  - j) There was no information on statuary, the old transformer and our twitter following.
  - k) The key to the noticeboard had gone missing: hence the failure to update information on the board. PC apologised.
10. Though Peter Constable had been re-elected chairman last year, he had stood down early in 2013 for reasons of health. RP drew attention to his persistence and success throughout his time as chairman in pursuing the concerns of the Association with councillors, with officers and with the Heritage Lottery people, and proposed a vote of thanks which was heartily endorsed. PC closed the meeting at 8.50 p.m.

Peter Constable (acting chairman)