

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF RICHMOND GREEN HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH , QUADRANT ROAD, RICHMOND AT 7:30 PM ON 19 APRIL 2011

Present

FORG executive	Peter Willan (Chair); Vivien Harris; Malcolm Mirrielees; Don Anderson; Martin Anderson; Peter Griffiths; Tracy Hurley
Residents	23 attended
Apologies	Sir Brian and Lady Fall; Nick Tarsh; Terry and Jean Lowden; Derek Robinson; Cllr Frances Bouchier; John Coates; Ann Larman; Rosemary Sadler; Richard Young, John Brown and Pam Hodges

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting were approved (proposed Nick Coleman; seconded Malcolm Mirrielees) and signed by Peter Willan.

Matters arising- Nick Coleman requested an amendment to point 3. 200 or 300 people on the Green behaving badly was not acceptable and this amendment has been made. All other matters arising were scheduled to be covered in the General Meeting which followed the AGM.

March 2011 Newsletter was submitted as the Executive Report.

Treasurer's Report

Malcolm Mirrielees presented the accounts and these were approved (proposed Martin Anderson; seconded Martin Wanfor). Income was up and expenses were down and Malcolm said the Executive Committee would welcome suggestions for projects on which we might spend FoRG funds.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee

Peter Willan agreed to continue as Chair.

Malcolm Mirrielees agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Vivien Harris agreed to continue as Secretary.

By a show of hands of members the three officers were re-elected and Martin Anderson, Peter Griffiths, Tracy Hurley and Don Anderson were re-elected as members of the Committee.

Peter explained that he had been appointed as Chairman of the Richmond Society and would therefore be stepping down as Chair of FoRG in the next few months but would continue as a member of the FoRG Executive Committee.

Nick Coleman made three points – appreciation of Peter's work as Chair; need to appoint a successor with similar drive to take strong positions and to achieve results; clarification re status of FoRG. Peter explained that FoRG is a charity and has a formal constitution which can be viewed on the FoRG web site.

A new attendee/new resident John Walsh asked how he became a member and had a right to vote and this was explained to him.

Formal meeting ended at 7.50pm.

General Meeting

Individual Committee members spoke about each of the specific topics listed below although issues of ASB dominated the meeting. The main points were all covered in the Newsletter of March 2011 previously distributed to members' homes and also available at the meeting. The Newsletter forms part of these Minutes. Cycling and the web page and communications were not covered in detail because of time restraints.

1. Anti-social behaviour, licensing and policing
2. Neighbourhood Watch; street co-ordinators and street pastors
3. Town Centre scheme
4. Club cars
5. Paths, grass, litter and general maintenance of the Green and roads
6. Cycling
7. Heathrow
8. Events & filming
9. Website and communications

Discussions/questions from the floor

ASB and Licensing

1. ASB is down by 15%; major contributor was change at The Bull from drink led to restaurant led strategy. Tootsies are also closed and have re-opened as Med Kitchen.
2. Major concerns re litter and new CI Slade says action can be taken against those who drop litter.
3. MAKE report on asb will be redone as 95% of low level asb is not recorded by the Police.
4. Fred Hauptfuhrer said litter was one aspect of asb that had worsened and key contributor was supermarkets e.g. Tesco and other take away establishments and not the pubs. Need to monitor wrappers and approach the cause.
5. One attendee suggested there were not enough bins particularly in the middle of the Green but overwhelming view of the meeting was that we did not want more bins on the Green and mind set of many Green users was just to leave their litter where it was and not clear it up even if there were more bins.
6. Suggestion that residents were using bins for domestic rubbish and this should be discouraged.
7. Martin Anderson pointed out that Tesco's can be asked to contribute to litter picking.
8. Martin Wonfor questioned what Council reaction would be to on the spot fines and Peter Willan pointed out that this would need to be actioned by Parks Officer and there are very few of these.
9. It was proposed that the Green should be an alcohol free area; various points were made re timing and area definition of such a ban; Anne Gilkes raised issue of underage drinking and that Tesco's were often source of the alcohol. Anne also said that police had given her the impression they were scared to approach underage drinkers.
10. Various discussions on scope of alcohol free zone and need to avoid shifting asb to pavements/house fronts/gardens; plus general agreement that Tesco's is major source of litter and under age drink problems.

11. Nick Coleman proposed that pressure be brought on Tesco's to sort out the problems (litter and sale of alcohol to under age drinkers) or face threat of closure/loss of licence.
12. Harmit Kalsi proposed less aggressive stance e.g. Tesco's to fund litter clearance 2 or 3 times a day. It was agreed that approach would be made to Tesco's regarding the litter problems on the Green.
13. Anthony Richards said that Council had done good job of clearing litter Saturday night/ early Sunday morning but too many attendees said that during the day particularly on a warm day/evening amounts of litter left on the Green were unacceptable.
14. Anne Gilkes asked what had happened to dispersal zone and Peter W said he had asked the Police the same question but had not received a response.
15. The meeting was asked to vote on making Richmond Green including the surrounding roads and house fronts an Alcohol Free Zone and 27 were for this proposal and 3 were against. The geographic boundary of the Alcohol Free Zone was defined as the remit of FoRG but excluding any official external drinking areas of the pubs within this boundary. There had been prior lengthy discussions see note 10. regarding the definition of the area to be included.

OTHER MATTERS

1. Neighbourhood Watch. Peter Willan outlined the appointment of Street Co-ordinators and Street Pastors.
2. Town Centre proposals – 20mph had been dropped on grounds of cost. As far as the station development is concerned, the buses and taxis cannot agree and concerns were expressed at the meeting regarding little benefit to be gained from the proposals.
3. Re Club Cars the point was raised regarding the size of the bay on Old Palace Terrace and Peter Willan agreed to write to the Council requesting that it be shortened.
4. General consensus that the new paths were a success. Major concerns re the state of the turf on Greenside. Regarded as a waste of time and money as it had not been watered and had been further damaged by the machinery used to clear the leaves. Graham Walker made the point that a similar area in Green Park had been very successfully re-turfed with appropriate use of fencing and it had been regularly watered.
5. Julian Paxton said that some of the trees on Greenside needed pruning.
6. Harmit Kalsi raised the issue of pigeons. Graham Walker said he had had various conversations with the Council and proposed use of pigeon pots (which contained contraceptives mixed in the food) and signs to be displayed as in Trafalgar Square – please do not feed the pigeons. FoRG to approach the Council to see what can be done.
7. Peter Griffiths outlined the various developments regarding Heathrow including the ending of the night noise agreement in 2012. FoRG is committed to keeping the noise levels down.
8. The Committee asked for suggestions for possible projects for FoRG to support financially. General agreement that residents should benefit from income from filming on or around the Green and not the local businesses. One possible suggestion which received support was to re-instate the small pillars and railings on Greenside and FoRG to investigate extending to other sides of the Green.
9. Old Deer Car park is about to be released from Crown Estates and FoRG will continue to monitor developments on this site.

10. Fred Hauptfuhrer raised the need to present the issues in terms of the conservation nature of Richmond Green and said that FoRG would be more successful if we emphasised the conservation aspect of many developments.
11. Concerns were expressed about too many people cycling across the Green and the wrong way round the Green.

We agreed to take all these helpful suggestions on board and take appropriate actions.
The meeting ended at 21.10.