



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2023

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Vivien Fenn-Webber, Janet Weatherburn, Amanda Williams, Donald MacDonald; Pixie Phelan, Chris Tallack and Stephen Gibbinson (North Tyneside Council – NTC), Ian Hogg (McDonalds), Michelle and Lisa (Community Champions - ASDA).

Apologies: Jan Casson, Rev. Dr Rae Caro (Rising Sun Neighbours)

As there were some new faces at the AGM, full introductions were made.

Chairperson's Report

Claire distributed copies of her comprehensive summary of the Group's activities over the previous 12 months, and then ran through some of the numerous highlights, which included;

- Almost 1,500 hours of volunteering time, with contributions from corporate volunteers
- Monthly litter-picking activities, again with regular involvement from corporate and community groups
- The planting of the Wigloo in the Wildlife Garden, and two cherry trees in the centre grounds
- The resurrection of the allotment area, coupled with the successful application for a grant from the Voluntary Organisation Development Agency (VODA), which will enable us to develop this area further
- Organised guided walks to explore the flora and fauna in the park
- A significant contribution to NTC's Christmas events.

Claire thanked everyone who had contributed to a very successful year, especially McDonalds and ASDA, who made regular donations throughout the year.

On a more sombre note, Claire paid tribute to Dennis Nelson, a long-standing and enthusiastic volunteer, who sadly died in April this year.

(The full report is being made available on our social media platforms and a copy will be displayed on the Noticeboard).

Treasurer's Report

Eric distributed copies of the summary of the Group's financial activities during the year. The two main sources of income were from donations and the sales of the calendar. A special mention goes to the Leeds Building Society, who made a substantial donation, and to the Rising Sun bakery, who, in addition to selling the calendar for us, made a contribution to the production costs. The biggest items of expenditure were for the production of the calendar, the cherry trees and various items used to support the on-going park maintenance. For the year, we recorded a surplus of £ 1,199.66, and we now have a very healthy balance of £ 3,924.08, although there are further expenses to be accounted for very shortly and will be displayed.

(Again, copies of the financial summary and the Treasurer's report are being posted on social media and on the Noticeboard).

Election of Officers

In accordance with the Group's formal Constitution, the three Committee members were obliged to stand down. There being no new nominations, and the three officers all being prepared to continue in office, all three were re-appointed:

Claire Partleton – Chair
Eric Styan – Treasurer
Keith Taylor - Secretary

There being no other business, the formal Annual General Meeting was brought to a close, which was then followed by the normal monthly meeting.