



Friends of The Rising Sun Country Park Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2025

Present: Claire Partleton (Chair), Keith Taylor (Secretary), Eric Styan (Treasurer), Jan Casson, Martyn Huttly, Amanda Williams, Janet Weatherburn, Ian Hogg (McDonalds), Pixie Phelan (North Tyneside Council (NTC)).

Apologies: Vivien Fenn-Webber; Elaine Elliott, Stephen Gibbinson, Chris Tallack and Amanda Bennett (all North Tyneside Council), Janet Chapman (Friends of Rising Sun Neighbours).

Chairperson's Report

The 2025 AGM was formally opened by Claire, who distributed copies of her full Report of the Group's activities and achievements during the previous 12 months, along with a brief Executive Summary, which included a number of photographs which captured some of these achievements. Copies of both documents will be distributed along with these Minutes, and these will be put on the Noticeboard for the Park's visitors to read. In addition to our weekly volunteer sessions, which include maintenance of the wider park and the allotment area, we have run the monthly litter-picks, supported NTC by helping with the creation and installation of nesting areas for the Terns on Swallow Pond, helped with creating new panels for the Celtic Village which should be completed later this year, supported the Council during their two family events, carried out bulb and tree-planting, as well as taking a very active part in a number of citizen science projects to record the wide range of wildlife in the park. Claire expressed her thanks to everyone who had made a contribution this year, and thanks, too, were then given to Claire for her enthusiasm, passion and commitment to promoting the activities of the Group and for the sheer effort she had put in.

Treasurer's Report

Eric distributed copies of the summary of the Group's financial activities for the year. A copy will also be distributed with the Minutes and displayed on the Noticeboard. As before, there has been an independent review of the supporting documentation, with no issues arising. Two recommendations to improve our procedures were made and these will be considered in due course. In addition to the normal fund-raising activities, such as the sale of duck food, calendars and voluntary donations, this year saw us selling greetings cards, showing a range of wildlife and views in the park. Sales are so far fairly modest but we have a decent stock, with no further costs to cover, these should provide a positive source of new income. In total, we recorded a surplus of £ 355.00 this year, bringing our balance to £ 4,855.67. Thanks were given to Eric for his work as Treasurer during the year.

Election of Officers

The Group's constitution requires that the three Committee members should stand down at the AGM and, if they wish, offer themselves for re-election. Claire was proposed and seconded to continue to act as Chair, and Eric was then proposed and seconded to continue

as Treasurer. Keith had previously indicated that he would not be seeking re-election. Amanda Williams was proposed and seconded for the role of Secretary, and Martyn said he would be willing to cover for Amanda whenever she may be unavailable.

There being no further business, the AGM was brought to a close and followed by the normal monthly meeting.