

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Hythe Green Preservation Society

27 July 2022, 7pm



1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Richard Bateman thanked all who had come to the Annual General Meeting

2) Apologies: Judith Marks, Deirdre McEvoy, Jean Nelson, Peter Knight, Joan Knight, Mrs CA Smith, Marilyn Jeffrey, Graham Jeffrey, Cllr Anita Jones, Cllr Jim Martin, Julie Abbott (HTC Clerk)

3) Minutes of AGM 28/7/2021. Minutes of last AGM were accepted as a true record with no changes.

4) Chairs Report

Richard Bateman reported on HGPS activities in the last year:

- Incursion of trespassers on to the Green in May 2021 caused damage and affected use of the Green for several months.
- This led to an examination of security and HGPS paid for and installed a number of security sentinel posts. HGPS continues to work with Hythe Town Council to find further security measures to put in place.
- Richard thanked the enthusiastic support for the Green shown by the officers at Hythe Town Council, the litter picking groups, Guides and Brownies for litter picking, and the backing given by the Hythe Town Council liaison group (Mayor Jim Martin, Cllr Anita Jones and Cllr Paul O'Connor).
- One initiative this year has been to increase the deposit required by event managers for the use of the Green. HGPS, working with the HTC, will assess damage done and an amount can be retained from the deposit to repair damaged areas.
- Another successful initiative was the Fields in Trust partnership with HTC to secure the Green from any future development. A plaque has been set on the northern boundary wall next to the original covenant plaque.
- There was a successful crowd-funding project for the Hythe Green Wood. We needed £13,500 and promised to plant 40 semi-mature native trees. In the event we raised almost £16,000 and with the help of the charity Kent Men of the Trees we have planted 105 trees. Richard thanked Kent County Council for their £6,000 contribution.
- A further 50 cherry plum trees will be planted at the curving edge of the wood in autumn as a continuation of the sheltered walkway running alongside the school. The space alongside the school has been cleared and this will become a grassed and shaded path where we hope to set benches eventually.
- Dementia Aware has sponsored the first bench for the Green (to be installed soon at the edge of the new wood).
- The Hythe Institute has sponsored the memorial bench on the triangle beside the Duke's Head pub. HGPS commissioned a local blacksmith, Sam Briggs of Ongarswick Forge in Dymchurch, to create the bench. The land at the triangle will be prepared and seeded with wildflowers later this year.
- Our current concern is ensuring that the trees remain watered. Richard thanked Geoff German for his efforts in watering and thanked also HV Wooding for allowing HGPS to use their water supply.
- Almost all of the trees are surviving comfortably (any that fail will be replaced in autumn); once we are reassured they are all thriving we will invite those people who sponsored a tree to select their tree and receive their certificate.
- Hythe Town Council has offered three wooden play creatures to the Green and they will be installed soon.
- In autumn the plan is to continue to seed the western edge walkway (the Woodland Walk) with bluebells and the northern boundary with a mix of coastal wildflowers.

- HGPS has a number of further enhancements and projects in mind. We will work with HTC to develop them and will publish the plans and any consultations as they occur.
- Finally Richard thanked the HGPS committee for their support. He also thanked Veronika Down for checking and approving the accounts. He made a special mention of thanks to Stephen Bailey and Liam Finch who have worked hard for the Green and given professional advice willingly throughout the year.

5) Report on Financial Accounts

Treasurer Geoff German gave a report on the accounts (see Treasurer's Report). The current balance is £3,386.41 (in bank) and £190.43 (in cash). Geoff invited anyone who had queries about the accounts to contact him for more details.

The Financial Accounts were approved as a true record.

6) Election of new officers

Chairperson – Richard Bateman

Vice Chairperson/Treasurer – Geoff German

Membership Secretary – Celia German

Secretary – Theresa Bateman

7) Membership report

There are 33 members who pay a subscription; the number has consistently been 30-40 for several years, except for the year 2015 when it rose to 120 because of the proposed building plan on the Green. Unusually this year money has come from crowd-funding and grants but usually the income is from membership. We now have a bank account for cash payments, bank transfers and also payment by Paypal. The core membership is important to HGPS as an organisation with a constitution. Apart from this, there are a lot of people following the HGPS Facebook site.

8) Any other business

David Horton raised the matter of the website which is still up and running; invoice is expected later this year. HGPS would welcome anyone who wants to volunteer to develop and manage the website.

Richard encouraged anyone who wants to know about plans for the Green to talk to committee members who can be found every day at some point on the Green; please feel free to come and ask questions.

Stephen Bailey asked for thanks to be given to Roy the woodcarver who has carved a cherry tree trunk for the Green and will be doing other work in the future.

Richard thanked Mike Matthews who has taken high quality photographs for the calendar and the Facebook site. Hopefully another calendar can be produced at the end of this year.

Bob Bartlett raised concern about the vacant Portex site, as people have been seen on the site and may be using it to get on to the Green and cause damage to the trees. Richard said that the Green has a secure boundary with the Portex site. The police are aware of the intrusions. There was a discussion about the security around Woodings site.

Caroline Smith asked if people can sponsor and dedicate benches on the Green and suggested that a charity could possibly fund a Listening Bench. Richard responded that Hythe Town Council has allowed HGPS to manage benches on the Green and local residents or companies will certainly be able to sponsor benches. The Listening Bench idea would be followed up.

9) At 7.30pm the meeting closed.