

Minutes
Annual General Meeting
Hythe Green Preservation Society

13 March 2020, 7.30pm

Present: Martin Whybrow, Jean Nelson, Michael Swan, Celia German, Richard Bateman, Lynne Simms, Geoff German, Anne Creed, David Horton, Joan Horton, Theresa Bateman

Apologies: Sue and Bob Bartlett

Chair Lynne Simms thanked all who had come to the Annual General Meeting in exceptional and difficult circumstances.

Minutes of last Annual General Meeting: proposed by Geoff German, seconded by David Horton. Minutes were agreed and approved with no changes.

Chair's report: Lynne Simms reported on the achievements of HGPS in the last year. HGPS has been proactive e.g. recruiting volunteers and also in carrying out wildflower planting with the Bumblebee Trust.

For health reasons, Lynne has decided to step down as Chair. Achievements during her time as chair have been: achieving a peak of over 100 members fighting the leisure centre; creating a Facebook page, stall at Hythe Festival, producing a website.

In 2019-20 a management project was carried out (cost £1,850 paid for by £1,000 grant from Town Council, £700 proceeds from boot fair donated to HGPS, £150 from HGPS funds). £2,000 grant for the 2020-21 year is already agreed by Town Council.

Geoff German gave further details on the recent landscaping management project. Stephen Bailey will continue work on the southern boundary, taking one compartment at a time. Whips are to be planted along the southern boundary in autumn and could cost up to £350. (In this event a shortfall in available funding may call for the HGPS to make it up). There is a possibility that the Woodland Trust may donate whips; *to be followed up*. Another part of the plan concerns the possibility of sectioning off a triangle in one corner for trees with a walkway.

Martin Whybrow: Hythe Town council has 900 trees; it may be possible to donate some to Hythe Green, (conditional on appropriate species).

Geoff German: Two bird boxes have been donated and others may be available.

Lynne Simms: HGPS should raise funds in case of any emergency situation.

All boot fair slots for 2020 have been taken; the meeting agreed that HGPS will put in a request already for a boot fair in 2021. Action: Geoff German to phone next week.

Theresa Bateman gave a report on the financial accounts for 2019-20 (see Treasurer's report).

Chief expenditure was on website maintenance, landscaping management project, stationery and production of report file, insurance. Membership fee would remain the same (£3.50 single; £6.00 joint) in 2020-21 but should increase for the following year 2021-22 as agreed at 2019 AGM. HGPS could consider changing to an “internet flexi” account with a debit card in order to make payments easier. All agreed this could be investigated.

It was agreed that if any members want further details on the landscaping management project they should contact Geoff German (proposed by David Horton, Seconded by Jean Nelson)

Election of new officers:

Richard Bateman – Chairperson (proposed by Geoff German, seconded by Lynne Simms)

Geoff German – Vice Chairperson and Treasurer (proposed by Jean Nelson, seconded by Joan Horton)

Celia German – membership Secretary (proposed by Lynne Simms, seconded by David Horton)

Theresa Bateman – Secretary (proposed by Anne Creed, seconded by Jean Nelson)

Betty Garfield, Lynne Simms, Anne Creed – Committee members

Richard Bateman showed a sample high visibility jacket with HGPS details which could be worn by volunteers working on the Green. He also suggested purchasing weatherproof printed noticeboards which could be used to give information directing enquiries to the HGPS website and the landscape management report (available from the front page). It was agreed in principle to spend approximately £30 on more high visibility jackets and approximately £100 on noticeboards (proposed by Jean Nelson, seconded by Geoff German). Action: Richard Bateman to get more accurate costs and to draft text for notices, to be discussed at next committee meeting.

Martin Whybrow suggested that HGPS could provide articles with photos to Hythe Town Council to be included in Hythe Town Council pages in Hythe Life. It may be possible to pay for a large permanent sign for Hythe Green from district councillor or county councillor grants. Action: HGPS committee to discuss and to arrange talks, discussion with Hythe Town council about permanent signage.

Martin Whybrow also suggested that HGPS’ insurance liability may already be covered by Hythe Town Council’s own policy. Richard Bateman to pursue.

Geoff German reported that HGPS was looking into ways to strengthen the covenant and proposed that HGPS should suggest to Hythe Town Council that the Council apply for village green status voluntarily. Martin Whybrow suggested that an alternative would be to consider the Trust route, which might prove to be a quicker process. The parish council of

Dymchurch could give information on the pros and cons and why they chose to go for a Trust for their recreation ground. Action: HGPS Committee to contact Dymchurch parish council; Martin Whybrow could provide contact names and would be willing to participate in the meeting.

There was a discussion on the proposed cycle route and the general feeling was that it should not go across the Green. Martin Whybrow has proposed a different route through the new development on Boundary Road. Action: HGPS to follow developments.

Joan Horton reported on her investigations with the Land Registry. She had discovered that the covenant was not registered and the Land Registry needed a certified copy to register. The documents in David and Joan Horton's possession were in poor condition therefore Joan typed out the document's text and checked it against Hythe Town Council's documents with the help of the Town Clerk. The Town Council provided a fully certified copy to send to the Land Registry and Joan Horton intends to send the documents to the Land Registry. There is a £48 fee. Action: Joan Horton to give further information on the fee and report on developments. Joan would inform the Town Council that the village green status application would be endorsed by the covenant.

David Horton has put a link to the HGPS Facebook page on the website. He suggested that local businesses might be approached to advertise on the website and Facebook page.

There was a discussion on how to increase membership e.g. putting information about HGPS in the Red Lion pub which was willing to display it. Jean Nelson suggested that A5 flyers could be printed and distributed locally. This was agreed to be a good idea. Action: Committee meeting to discuss.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.