



Woodcote Millennium Green Trust

Charity Registered Number 1075872

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Minutes of the AGM for 2022 of the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust held on Wednesday, 2nd March 2022 at 7:00 pm Location: 'Zoom'

1. Welcome and introductions

Chairman Mark Swan welcomed all the participants to the Annual General Meeting. All of the papers for the meeting were available on the WMGT website.

Trustees present:

Andrew Broadbent (Epsom & St Helier Hospital Trust)
Liz Frost (Woodcote Epsom Residents' Society representative)
Luke Jennings (Digital marketing and website management)
Paul Masters (Legal representative)
Allan Stamper (Treasurer)
Mark Swan (Chairman)

Also present were the Life President Chris Frost, and ten other local residents.

2. Apologies for absence

Those received were from Trustees Jason Cowling (Maintenance and project management) and Alister Harwood (Project management).

3. Minutes of AGM 2021

The Minutes of the AGM were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Trustees Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021

With regard to governance, at the first ordinary meeting held in January, the Trustees elected Mark Swan to continue as Chairman for the year. Two Trustees, Jason Cowling and Paul Masters, completed their four-year terms of service during the year. Each agreed to continue serving and each was re-appointed for a further four-year term.

The Chairman highlighted one of our main marketing and communication tools: The WMGT Newsletter. Its target audience was new residents. Its use was to point out to them and to remind others that the Green was run by our Trust, a local charity. The Trustees managed the finances and organised the maintenance of the Green. Trustees together with volunteers (largely residents in the local area) maintained the Green. Their hard work went on constantly. The aim of the Trust was to keep this amenity open as a safe place all year for everyone to enjoy. Risk analysis was also a constant. For example, after the recent storm, many dead or dying branches had to be removed for safety on the Green.

The Digital Marketing Website Manager thanked those who had helped deliver the recent issue of the Newsletter to largely all households in the local area.

With respect to performance, the Chairman again acknowledged the importance of the many volunteers who came to the Green to do work during the ad hoc sessions, and even those who came down to do occasional work on their own. Their work, together with that carried out by the volunteers who attended the four quarterly maintenance sessions, was highly valuable to the conservation and upkeep of the Green.

Dan Nicholls, our professional arborist, was thanked especially. To keep the Green as safe as possible, Dan had volunteered some of his own time to help deal with dead and dying branches.

The Treasurer highlighted that it had been a good year for the Trust, in spite of the challenges of the past two years. Income from residents' donations was good and very similar to 2020. Gift Aid reclamations from HMRC totalled £579.

Expenses for maintaining the pond and the Green were lower. Two grants totalling £1467 were secured toward the cost of the new noticeboard, leaving the Trust only a further £255 to pay. There was significantly less contracted out tree work than in recent years. Also, the Trust had made the decision to try to undertake more of the maintenance work with the help of volunteers where possible in order to reduce spending on third party contractors.

The Charifund investment had also done very well. It was up by 19%-20% in 2021 to £75,437. This represented more than a full recovery from the large reduction in 2020.

Two new residents had sent in thank you notes along with their donations. Each of these residents expressed how pleasant the amenity was for people in the area to use.

The Trustees Report and Full Year Report on Accounts and Finances for 2021 were approved and adopted.

5. Resolution to amend Clause 22.3 of the Trust Deed

It was explained that the purpose of the amendment was to simplify the wording in light of the wider range of media now available. The "area of benefit" was the local largely residential area surrounding the Green.

The Charity Commission did not need to approve this type of amendment before it was put to a vote.

The amendment was proposed, and passed. The Legal Representative will notify the Charity Commission by paper application.

PM

6. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd and 3rd June 2022

There was a discussion about whether there was sufficient interest to arrange a community celebration of this event on the Green. It was believed that many people already would be making their own arrangements to celebrate. Residents on individual streets might be holding their own street parties. The meeting was reminded that the Jubilee weekend was the same weekend as the Epsom Derby. The Race Course needed volunteers. The Trustees were already planning a celebration in 2025 to mark the 25th year of the establishment of the Millennium Green. In conclusion, there was no interest shown in arranging a special celebration on the Green for this year's Jubilee.

Attention was turned to whether in general we should ban the use of barbecues on the Green. There was a lot of dry wood lying on the ground. The Green was at risk if there were to be a fire. It was concluded that it would be prudent of the Trust to put up signs about fire risk if/when the Green is dry.

MS/JC

7. The Queen's Green Canopy

This nationwide initiative has been planned to encourage everyone to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. It was proposed that our Trust take part by planting a new tree on the Green. Alternative tree types were suggested: a fruit tree, a flowering cherry, or one or more nut trees planted together that would produce 'mast' for children to learn about. Suggested locations for planting were, in the open area at the back of the pond where the main spring comes down, the east bank of the pond, or between the avenue of lime trees and Woodcote Green Road. For ease of watering a new tree might be established near the pond, possibly.

A vote was taken and it was decided that a fruit tree should be planted for the Jubilee. The Chairman will contact Lower Mole Countryside Trust for their advice on the best type of fruiting tree and best planting location for success and ease of maintenance in our situation.

MS

[Subsequent to the meeting, it was suggested that it might be an idea to find a variety of tree that had the name Elizabeth or platinum or jubilee in it.]

8. Future plans and suggestions

It was suggested that all the existing bird boxes be located and cleaned out. It was believed that there were 50-60 boxes. Some, if not all, had been designed to rotate on the fixing screw at the back. They could be turned upside down so the lid would fall open and the contents could be cleaned out. The job would be scheduled for the next maintenance session.

JC

9. Any Other Business

The Digital Marketing and Website Manager thanked Richard Lea for all the wonderful photos of the Green he had submitted for display on the WMGT website and on facebook throughout the year. Many of Richard's photos could be seen in the Gallery. Some were also used to bring seasonal changes to pictorial backgrounds. The following statistics were reported about visitors to the website: There had been 219 followers and 800 sessions. 70% were from the UK, 20% were from China, and the rest were from various places including Azerbaijan, Jamaica and Ukraine. Most popular were the Homepage, History – about the Green and local area, and the Gallery of photos.

The meeting closed at 8:05 pm.

DS/6th March 2022