

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF HENRIETTA GARDENS
HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2016 IN THE RISING SUN AT 7.30 pm**

Present: Henry Ford, Chair (HF), Ian Critchley, Treasurer (IC), David Robinson (DR), Maveen Blackwell (MB), Suzanne McCarragher (SM), David Carr (DC), Erica Timothy (ET), Julia Virley (Secretary) (JV)

Apologies: Erica Jones

1. **Minutes** of the last meeting were approved
2. **Matters arising** It was agreed that there would be a second signatory on all cheques and SM agreed to be that person
3. **Establishing Council Contact.** This was initiated by HF and will be followed up by MB. MB to be point of contact with the Council. It was agreed that a list of questions would be drawn up for BANES. It was noted that the Council is now on holiday for 2 weeks. The legal status of the park has to be researched. DC has done some research. He had heard that the parks may be sold off but he had no hard evidence of this so far. There are two "Champion" trees in the park which might help. MB said that the park was given to the people. Extra protection vital said DC. Village Green status is not viable. We could apply to have the park listed. Sydney Gardens have done this. DC to deal with application. HF to chase up on legal status. MB to obtain a copy of the original covenant and put on website. List the champion trees, ie. Measure trunks, elevation and spread. HF to obtain a modern map of the park. ET will do a drawing of the park. SM thought that Simon (gardener) may have a map. It was noted that Simon is leaving and it was agreed that some sort of farewell function should be organised for him. **Action: MV,DC,HF, ET**
4. **Park Activities: (1) Litter collection** Litter pickers will have to go on a training course. MB to find out more. Caroline Greenwood is the contact for Sydney Gardens said IC. IC said they pick up litter on a Sunday in Sydney Gardens when there are no paid staff around. SM suggested that the children could be encouraged to do this. MB said sticks were a problem as council

workers would not pick them up. HF to get instructions from BANES and then draw up a rota. HF said that the bins were too small. HF to tackle BANES to get two Big Belly bins, one at each entrance to the park. MB needs a complete list of committee members telephone numbers, email and address please.

Action: HF, MB and all committee members. (2) Park

Maintenance HF to speak to Simon and see if he has a maintenance plan. IC said that leaves were not picked up in time leaving the earth brown. Twigs are not picked up. IC said that no pruning had been done and what had been done was done too late. HF to find out if the Council has a schedule. There is a green bin behind the loos for garden matter. HF to find out from Simon what needs to be done by us. HF thinks that the Elder and Ash saplings need to be removed. HF to draw up a maintenance schedule. **Action: HF, MB (3) Future of the Park.**

The Council must have a strategic view. MB to find out more. DC said there was a report published in 2014, we should find out what it said. DC to investigate. **Action: DC, MB**

5. **Membership:** IC said that there are currently 13 members. HF has a list of those who attended the first meeting and they should be contacted with a view to them becoming members. SM is to put together an email suggesting they join together with the bank details etc and ask if they have any suggestions as to the way forward. ET said that the Champion Plane tree looked sad, leaves wilting. HF to check. HF will be in the park again this Saturday at 2.30 for anyone interested in playing Kubb!
Action: SM, HF

6. **Activities:** It was suggested that the children might like to build bird boxes which the tree climbing gang could erect. MB to talk to Council about placement of bird boxes. Blue Tit boxes should be on the chestnut trees. A photographic competition could be organised encouraging people to take pictures of the park during the 4 seasons of the year. The committee could vote for the best photograph and the put it on the website. SM suggested having an inaugural party in the Blind Garden before Simon goes to get people motivated and also to thank Erica Jones who paid for a lot

of the refurbishment of the garden. A monthly **Bird List** could be drawn up and posted on the website. ET suggested having a check list of birds. IC to compose. There could also be bat boxes. **Action: MB,IC**

7. **Website:** HF to hand it over to DR. HF has paid £80 for the host domain.
Action: HF, DR

- 8 **Any Other Business.** MB wondered if there should be a Membership Secretary. It was agreed it would be thought about at a later date and hopefully before the AGM. IC reported that we now had £475 in the account. HF wanted signage at the entrances and SM suggested braille signs in the Blind Garden. ET said they were very expensive.

9. **Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 4 October at 7.30 pm at JV'.s (Ravenswell, Sydney Road, BA2 6NT 01225 469415)