

FRIENDS of NORTH LODGE PARK

2016 Annual General Meeting

23 March 2016 - Cromer Community Hall

MINUTES

	A full list of attendees is available. The meeting was chaired by Tony Knight; secretary was Barry Meadows.
1	Apologies for absence
	Sue Wright, Mike and Judy Dixon, Pete and Chris Wenham, Val Boon, Cat Plewman
2	Minutes from previous AGM (4th March 2015)
	The minutes were agreed as a true record; proposed Rosemary Price, Seconded Lizzie Knight. There were no actions brought forward.
3	Report from Chair
	Tony Knight, chair
	The highs and lows of the year were summarised from the inaugural AGM in March 2015. Full report is available.
	Emma Dale, vice-chair
	Although we had to make a commercial bid for the licence, the Friends will operate on the same basis as the previous 8 months, as a social enterprise style business.
4	Finance Report
	Joanne Cooper
	M&A have given an independent assessment of the accounts for 2015. The accounts show a turnover of £27,491 which includes over £1,000 donations. Expenditure for the year was £6774 giving a surplus of £20,718 M&A will submit the accounts to the Inland Revenue with a report stating that although we are not registered as a charity yet, we are applying for registration and therefore as we are in the process of this and all our funds are for charitable purposes, we require that there shouldn't be a charge for corporation tax. However this is not guaranteed. In 2016, the £5 per subscription will only apply to members who require paper copies of the newsletter.
5.	Revision of Constitution
	Robert Dale
	The constitution adopted at last year's AGM needs revision to reflect the current situation. In addition, the status of the Friends as an unincorporated association, is not appropriate going forward; it is proposed to register the Friends as a charity, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove the risk of corporation tax (see above, finance report) • give the Friends more credibility • enable access to funds for projects • provide a legal body for licences etc
	The Charity commission provides standard constitutions to simplify the process of becoming a charity. It is proposed to adopt the model for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation model).
	The new constitution will be based on the existing as far as possible; it is proposed that our charitable objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To protect, enhance and promote North Lodge Park as a place of recreation and enjoyment for the long term benefit of the local community and visitors 2. To encourage wide community input and participation in improving the Park so that the Park may best serve the local community and visitors 3. To develop, promote and manage facilities and functions in the Park to provide recreational and social opportunities for the local community and visitors
	The meeting agreed the proposed constitution (proposed Roger O'Leary, seconded Samantha Annison)

6	Election of committee	Barry Meadows
	<p>The following were elected to the committee (proposed Silvie Kilshaw, seconded David Pope)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Meadows • Emma Dale • Jane Davis • Joanne Cooper • John Morgan • Lizzie Knight • Paddy Bennett • Robert Dale • Rosemary Price • Samantha Annison • Tony Knight • Tracy Vanzino <p>The committee officers will be elected by the committee at the first meeting.</p>	
7	Feedback on Park Proposals	
	<p>The full report on the feedback is available online; paper copies are available.</p> <p>Of the 364 responses, 85% were in support if the ideas proposed.</p> <p>The most positive support was for life in the Park developed radiating from the cafe hub; the least popular proposal was to move the boating lake.</p> <p>There are 5 recommendations/actions in the report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ask that NNDC to move quickly on their proposal to find a partner, so there is not a prolonged period of stagnation 2. ask that NNDC and all potential future partners base their proposals on community wishes, as outlined in the report 3. explore opportunities for managing the Park as a community trust 4. seek to create a working relationship with NNDC so that the priorities identified in the report can be taken forward as quickly as possible 5. clarify NNDC's plans to implement a car park in North Lodge Park <p>The meeting fully supported these recommendations.</p>	
8	Futures	
	<p>The year ahead will be pivotal in the future of North Lodge Park.</p>	
8.1	Car park proposal	
	<p>NNDC have stated their intention to publish their plans, for a 55 space car park on the concrete area, in April, with the money for implementation budgeted for the 2016/17 financial year. The Friends will ensure the accuracy of any information during the necessary public consultation.</p>	
8.2	Prior Information Notice	
	<p>NNDC have stated their intention to publish their Prior Information Notice (PIN). Looking for a partner to work with them on the future development and management of the Park. Until this is published the Friends do not have enough information to comment on the plans. The meeting gave full support to the committee to work with potential partners, if appropriate, to develop a community partnership option.</p>	
8.3	Cafe	
	<p>Emma will lead on the management of the cafe, maintaining the style and spirit of the cafe as a welcoming community space, run primarily by volunteers. Help from all Friends is needed to make this work.</p>	
8.4	Gardening	
	<p>The few gardening volunteers have worked really hard over the last 8 months, particularly in the Rose Garden. In the next 12 months we need to increase the support we give to the gardeners, with more regular volunteers and special gardening events.</p>	
9	AOB	
	<p>Tim Adams will provide a tap top to enable access to water from North Lodge for the volunteer gardeners.</p>	
		Barry Meadows 27 March 2016