

THE FRIENDS OF MARBLE HILL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

24th November 2022

1.1 Present Alex Kingston(AK) (Chairman), Roger Hackett (RH), Graham Williams (GW), Vivienne Cove (CV). Rachel Morrison (RM) Angela Sturgeon (AS) John Perry (JP) Brian Howard (BH) and 20 members

1.2 In attendance Maureen Coyle- English Heritage

1.2 Apologies Dorothy Gonsalves and 9 members, Olivia Carr, English Heritage

	Action
<p>2. Declarations of Interests</p> <p>None, although the Treasurer explained that prior to their appointment as FoMH auditors he had been a client of the Auditors. No other declarations.</p>	
<p>3. Draft Minutes of Meeting of the 10th February 2022 AGM</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the February 2022 AGM were agreed as a true record.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>It was agreed there were no matters arising</p>	
<p>4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2022.</p> <p>The Chairman Alex Kingston gave her report . She explained that she had taken over as chairman in February 2022 with a committee composed of some old faces and some new but all with years of experience and a love of Marble Hill and she wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work since then. .</p> <p>The Chairman then made a presentation to the outgoing Treasurer and thank him for all his work .</p> <p>She explained that the Friends goal is to work closely with, but independent from, English Heritage, representing the people who live nearby, those who use the park and those who visit the house and gardens. To this end The Friends had been a very visible presence at many of the events held during the summer and unusually our new gazebo has been more useful in protecting us from the sun than the rain. She thanked Graham Williams for all his work on the Gazebo. Both events and the house had record</p>	

numbers of visitors and it was wonderful to meet so many people who shared the Friends enthusiasm for Marble Hill.

The Chairman congratulated English Heritage and MC and the team on winning so many awards. These included the prestigious Georgian Group award for the restoration of a Georgian landscape and garden and awards from the Richmond Society and Britain in Bloom.

The Chairman reported that the shopping events at Strawberry Hill would not be going ahead but the Marble Hill House Shop would be open for Christmas shopping on the 3rd December.

The Friends had continued to send out a regular newsletter to keep people informed about our work. Thanks to Chris Hurry . For the first time The Friends have introduced an annual membership fee of £10 per household and she had often been asked why this had been done. The house and garden are of course free to everyone whether or not they are members of English Heritage and one of The Friends tasks is to be an important local voice in ensuring that this continues. Local residents often approach us with various concerns and The Friends Committee members are able to get swift and reassuring answers to their queries because of our close relationship with the staff at Marble Hill House. We aim to ensure that the future of the site is based on what we do – and more importantly – do not want.

With the worst of the pandemic now behind us we are all keen to ensure that the next year will be even more successful and we are committed to keeping Marble Hill a very special place for now and for future generations and she thanked all those present for being a part of that journey.

The dog zoom is now on the 17th January 2023 and the dog show in the park will be on the 10th June 2023, the Tug of War would be repeated, but this year with rules (especially for parents.)

5. REPORT AND UPDATE - MAUREEN COYLE MARBLE HILL PROPERTY MANAGER

Maureen Coyle the Marble Hill Property Manager gave a presentation on the achievements of the Marble Hill Revived project. This had led to a huge transformation of the house and grounds and increased community involvement over the last few years. MC summarised the objectives of the project and listed the many partners who had helped since 2016, when it all began.

This year saw the achievement of the full restoration and re-opening of the house. Work on the house had taken 3 years and

included complete rewiring , new roof etc. This work on the house had intensified after the house closed in late 2019. MC's presentation showed the impact of the restoration on the house, the improvements and how extensive the restoration had been. She was able to illustrate this with some "before" and "after" pictures. She outlined the painstaking processes that had been used. She explained the conservation work carried out including the paint analysis to ensure authenticity. The project had used the wider EH network of specialists based outside Marble Hill to complete the project.

MC outlined the changes to House content. She gave the example of the Peacock tables. As there was only one of pair a second reproduction one had been produced to recreate a matching pair. MC explained that Bruce Gordon Smith had built up a photographic archive of the restoration. She showed examples of work in the woodland parts of the park that sought to take it back to the way it was in Henrietta's day. MC explained how much of what had been achieved was due to the work of the garden volunteers. Without them the transformation would not have been achieved. She thanked them warmly.

MC explained how the flower quarter had been improved. Members were shown artists impressions and then the way the proposals had been implemented. There had also been a major investment in sports pitches and improvements with regard to the Grotto. A lot had been achieved, but still there was a lot more to do. The Grotto was a project that fascinated many.

The Cafe re-opened in March 2021. This had been a learning process. The room the AGM was being held in was the Ladies' loo before the refurbishment. The Children's Play Area had been refurbished. It was wonderful to see the increased use by visitors and families of the grounds and the house. She wanted to thank her staff and volunteer teams for all their contributions. . The success achieved had depended upon these people. 240 volunteers who had contributed over 10,000 hours.

The support for the opening weekend by staff and volunteers had been really important. MC summarised the successes of the Apprentice scheme and listed the current apprentices and their roles. Huge thanks to all the amazing team who made this possible especially John Watkins whose vision from the beginning had driven the project.

The opening weekend had been a great success , with lots of events and an amazing atmosphere There was a lovely Community Spirit and the FoMH sponsorship of the Family Trail leaflets was very much appreciated and over 10k copies had been produced and circulated.

<p>MC described some of the most recent successful events and also referred to the Awards already listed by the Chairman. MC was very proud of MH's recognition. She listed some impressive statistics on achievements since the reopening for example that there had been over 28k visitors since May 2022.</p> <p>MC also reminded members of the upcoming events. These are listed on the EH website. She confirmed that next year there will be a visit from Father Christmas.</p> <p>MC wanted to especially thank the Friends of Marble Hill for their support. EH and the local team could not have achieved so much without the help of the Friends.</p> <p>After the end of the presentation the Chairman thanked MC and her team for all the work that had been done and pledged ongoing FoMH support .</p>	
<p>6. TREASURERS REPORT. Annual Accounts for 2021-2022</p> <p>The Treasurer introduced this item. The Treasurers' Report and the Annual Accounts for 2021-22 had been circulated with the AGM papers. The Treasurer highlighted a number of points from his report. Members were asked if they had any questions,. None were raised and the meeting noted that the annual accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2022, which had been approved by the Committee, had been duly received.</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<p>7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2022-23</p> <p>For 2021-22 the Friends appointed Blackwood Futcher & Co of Farnham to undertake an annual review and certification of the accounts.</p> <p>For 2022-23 it was agreed that Blackwood Futcher & Co of Farnham continue as auditors at a cost of £200 to undertake an annual review and certification of the accounts .</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<p>8. ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Committee consists of 3 Officers, (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and up to 8 other Members. The Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting, hold office for a period of up to 12 months, and may be eligible for re-election. All Officers and all Members of the Committee must be a Member of the Friends and remain so throughout the duration of their tenure on the Committee.</p>	

The Officers have the power to appoint by a simple majority of those present at a Committee meeting, other Members to the Committee, up to the maximum number of 8. One member was elected to the committee in this manner during the year.

An Officer will have a maximum tenure of 3 years' service in a specific role on the Committee. A person may hold consecutive different roles on the Committee providing the total number of consecutive years on the Committee as an Officer is not more than 6 years. A Member of the Committee who is not an Officer will have a maximum tenure of 4 consecutive years' service on the Committee.

ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION

The following were elected or re-elected to the committee by the AGM .

- Alex Kingston Chairman (Officer)
- Brian Howard Treasurer (Officer)
- Roger Hackett Secretary (Officer)
- Vivienne Cove
- Dorothy Gonsalves
- Rachel Morrison
- Angela Sturgeon
- Graham Williams (Membership Secretary)

All to note

Except for Brian Howard and Angela Sturgeon, the other committee members had held office since February 2022. No other nominations had been received.

9. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS AS THE CHAIR MAY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING.

There were no AOBs or other matters that the Chairman had agreed be discussed at the meeting.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 19.30

The Meeting closed at 20.28