

THE FRIENDS OF MARBLE HILL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

25th September 2023

1. 1 Present Alex Kingston (AK) Graham Williams (GW), Rachel Morrison (RM) Angela Sturgeon (AS) Lady Sheila Hale and 19 Members.

1.2 In attendance Maureen Coyle- English Heritage Corrine Price -English Heritage.

1.2 Apologies Roger Hackett and 4 other Members.

	Action
<p>2. Declarations of Interests</p> <p>Councillor Julia Neden-Watts explained that she in addition to be a FoMH Member she is one of the local ward councillors (Richmond Riverside) and Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture, and Sports Services Committee.</p> <p>No other declarations in addition to those already made by Committee Members.</p>	<p>All to Note</p> <p>All to Note</p>
<p>3. Draft Minutes of Meeting of the 10th February 2022 AGM</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the November 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>All to Note</p> <p>All to Note</p>
<p>4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023.</p> <p>In her written report the Chairman mentioned that the then recently purchased Friends of Marble Hill Gazebo had been useful in protecting Members from the glare of the sun at events in the park. This year, not so much. It had been a busy year both for Marble Hill House and for the Friends, an organisation which works closely with, but is independent from, English Heritage. Visitor numbers have remained high and it has been a huge pleasure to see the beautifully restored gardens beginning to mature and be enjoyed by so many visitors.</p> <p>The Friends continue in our role as the voice for the community. She explained that she was always impressed by the response</p>	

From Maureen Coyle and her team when concerns from our Members were raised. The FoMH's responsibility to ensure that the future of Marble Hill is focussed on what the community wants done - and more importantly - does not want done.

One of the major contributions this year has been to donate £4,500 to English Heritage to assist in the production of the hugely popular Family Trail leaflet. The FoMH's sponsorship brings our work to the attention of visitors and importantly raises awareness in young visitors who will one day assume the task of protecting the house and grounds that they will have known since childhood.

The most important donation during the year to the Friends was from the Dolan Foundation. This came after a meeting with Peter Dolan who asked if there were plans to restore the clock in the stable block. The donation has been ring fenced by the FoMH exclusively for that restoration and the Friends look forward to hearing the clock chime out the hours across the park.

The Friends continue to receive support from our President, the author Tracy Bormann and she generously spared time to give a talk to Members about her newest book. The Chairman announced that Tracy has agreed to give another talk next year.

The newsletter goes from strength to strength and could not do so without the tireless work of Chris Hurrey. The Chairman thanked him and took the opportunity to thank the Friends' Committee, including our Secretary Roger Hackett. Angela Sturgeon has also contributed many hours working with the local history department of Richmond Library digitising the old newsletters of the Marble Hill Society and ensuring that the Friends Newsletters are now kept for future generations of researchers. Angela and fellow Committee Member, Graham Williams have also been investigating the possibility of re-creating the circular bench which can be seen in old photographs of the house. Sadly after months of planning by Rachel Morrison the Dog Show had to be postponed because it fell on one of the very few hot days of the summer but will now be held on the 7th October. Since the report was circulated the digitizing of all past newsletters has been completed with indexing added and is available online via the Local History Archives at Richmond Library.

The Chairman thanked the Membership for their continued support. She noted that for all of us it is an enormous pleasure to be involved in and part of such a wonderful place.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

Lady Hale outlined the talk she will give early next year on Titian on a date to be confirmed.

<p>Maureen Coyle EH Property Manager gave an update on the continuing success since the reopening of the house and thanked the Committee and Friends for their work. The 300th anniversary celebrations of the house are being planned and any ideas Members may have would be welcome.</p> <p>Corinne Price Head Gardener gave an illustrated talk on the landscaping plans of the park. Much of the core work has been done and continued maintenance forms a major part of the ongoing work on the park with the help of volunteers. The next phase now underway is the planting of the meadow areas round the park. These will be a mix of managed meadows and wild areas. The hornbeam trees planted to form an arch walkway are being tended and an illustration of the mature arch was shown along with plans and illustrations of the meadow areas. An 18thC seat behind or near the ice house is planned.</p>	
<p>6. TREASURERS REPORT. Annual Accounts for 2021-2022</p> <p>The Chairman introduced this item. The written Treasurers' Report and the Annual Accounts for 2022-23 had been circulated with the AGM papers and were noted by the meeting. The Chairman thanked Terry Smith for all his work on financial matters, the accounts and on line banking and for implementing a card payment facility. The 2022/23 Annual Signed Accounts are attached.</p> <p>The meeting noted the receipt of the Committee approved Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023.</p>	<p>All to note</p>
<p>7. 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> <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.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the new constitution Committee Members including Officers to serve for a maximum of six years. Before a Committee Member who has served for six years or more can be stand for re-election at an AGM the Committee will carry out a</p>	

rigorous review process to determine whether it is in the best interest of the Friends for them to seek re- election again having taken into account the need for progressive refreshing of the Committee and operational effectiveness.

ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION

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

Alex Kingston Chairman (Officer)
Roger Hackett Secretary (Officer)
Rachel Morrison
Angela Sturgeon
Graham Williams
Terry Smith

Except for Terry Smith the other Committee Members had held office since the last AGM. No other nominations had been received.

No nominations have been received for the post of Treasurer which remains vacant. Brian Howard the former Treasurer has offered to be the Honorary Independent Examiner for the Annual Accounts The Committee would welcome any nominations for this vacancy or to the Committee. The vacancies will be advertised again.

All to note

8. REPORT ON REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FoMH.

1. The circuited written Report was considered. The Committee of FoMH had carried out a review of the Constitution The purpose of the review was to :-

a) remove references in the Constitution to proposed changes that have been approved by previous AGMs, repetition, jargon and revision of clauses to make these clearer and simpler, references to matters that relate to the operation of the Friends rather than the Constitution of the Friend.

b) include powers that are not in the current Constitution that are normally included in Constitutions of Friends organisations which ensure good governance.

c) produce a Constitution that was appropriate and proportionate for the needs of a small unincorporated and unregistered voluntary association.

2. The outcome of the review including, an amended Constitution, was in the written Report circulated to the Members for approval.

3. Changes to the FoMH Constitution need to be approved by the AGM.

4. The proposed changes to the Constitution and why these

<p>changes are suggested were set out under the major headings of the Constitution.</p> <p>5. The AGM:-</p> <p>a) Approved the proposed changes to the FoMH Constitution.</p> <p>b) Authorise the Secretary to publish the new Constitution on the FoMH website and send a copy to English Heritage.</p>	
<p>9. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS AS THE CHAIR MAY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING and AOB.</p> <p>There were no other matters or AOBs</p> <p>On behalf of EH Maureen Coyle presented EH gift bags to the Committee Members for their work in running the Friends.</p> <p>The FoMH Committee Members presented a gift purchased from their personal funds to Maureen Coyle for her help and continued support of the Committee.</p> <p>There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.</p> <p>The Meeting commenced at 19.00</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 20.05</p>	