

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE 26th/27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 26th/27th AGM

MINUTES OF THE 26th/27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

HELD AT THE CORNERSTONE CENTRE
AT 10.30am ON SATURDAY 20th April 2024

PRESENT

In the chair: Ted Davis (TD)
Committee: George Dean (GD) David Ryan (DR)
Annie Mendelow (AM)
Note taker: David Ryan

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jan Nichols

2. With an attendance of forty, including those on the Committee, the meeting was confirmed by the notetaker as quorate.

3. The Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM, the Annual Accounts and the Chairman's Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

4. **Proceedings**

4.1 TD proposed that this AGM be marked as the 26th/27th. Due to Covid the recording of AGM had become out of sequence. No objections raised TD confirmed the proposed change was adopted.

4.2 The Minutes of the 25th AGM of FOPA held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 were presented by TD and adopted by acclamation.

4.3 The Annual Report for 2023 was presented by TD. (Copy attached)

4.4 The Annual Accounts for 2022 were presented and adopted by acclamation. TD thanked GD for his work in maintaining and preparing the accounts.

TD proposed a block vote for all the members for acceptance of the accounts and seconded by David Tilson and adopted by acclamation.

5. **Election of the Committee**

TD informed the meeting that George Dean (Treasurer) was willing to continue in the office. Four members have been co-opted to the committee this past year and have agreed to remain Ted Davis (Chair), David Ryan (Acting Secretary), Annie Mendelow and Jan Nichols.

TD informed the meeting that David Ward (Previous Chairman) had informed him that 2023 would be his last year as Chairman as he resigned in October. TD thanked David Ward for his continued hard work.

TD confirmed that Andrea Martin will be joining the committee in the coming year and invited anyone else interested in becoming a committee member to contact him via info@fopa.co.uk

TD proposed a block vote for all the members. This was motioned by Rory Connely and seconded by Stuart Grainger and adopted by acclamation.

6. **Vote on Changes to Constitution**

TD proposed two changes to the Friends Constitution.

To change the Quorum required at general meetings from 10% to 5%. Our membership has grown to include many not living in the immediate area. Also with a free membership, we have had several members join, yet are not actively involved. This Quorum is in line with similar Friends groups, and the Hove Civic Society.

TD proposed a block vote for all the members. 40 members in favor, no objections, no abstained. TD Change adopted.

To change the minimum required officers from a minimum of four ordinary members, to a maximum of nine members (including Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer)

TD proposed a block vote for all the members. 40 members voted in favor, no objections, no abstained.

TD confirmed the proposed changes are now adopted.

7. **Guest Speakers**

TD invited local councilors Jilly Stevens and Andrei Czolak to speak at the AGM. Both were very pleased with the turnout of residents and supported the Friends group. They chose to discuss an on-going issue in Brighton and Hove of Drug Abuse and the affects in our area.

The talk raised several questions about policing, funding including council tax value and CCTV in the area. To which the councilors responded in a live debate with several take-away actions. Both councilors concluded by encouraging everyone to vote for the upcoming Police Commissioner and will confirm the date of the local action meeting they would like residents to raise their concerns at.

Both councilors are happy to continue conversations around this subject and other concerns or items you would like to raise and have provided contact information below;

Jilly Stevens
Elected Labour Councillor
Brunswick and Adelaide Ward
email: Jilly.Stevens@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Andrei Czolak
Elected Labour Councillor
Brunswick and Adelaide Ward
email: andrei.Czolak@brighton-hove.gov.uk

8. **Any Other Business**

TD informed the meeting that he had not received any formal requests for AOB but opened up the meeting to the floor should those present wish to raise any issues.

Questions raised about the condition of the Balustrade at the bottom end of Adelaide Crescent by David Tilson. Funding is the issue as always, however Andrei Czolak is going to look at options available.

9. The business of the meeting being completed, the meeting concluded at 11.40am. The next AGM will be held on a date to be arranged. Tea/Coffee and Cakes (provided by Andrea & Annie) and an opportunity to meet fellow members followed.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

Hello and thank you all for coming today. It's been a very busy year with a lot going on behind the scenes in the Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide.

Firstly, I'd like to thank George Dean for seeing us through with his several years of dedication as treasurer. Keeping our accounts in good standing and also holding the torch as we all maneuvered through a year of many changes.

Following a few bumpy years, and the Covid Pandemic, we'd fallen a bit behind, so this AGM will essentially cover two years and bring us right up to date. Two committee officers stepped down this past year, Trish Thomson, and David Ward. Trish moved out of Brunswick Town into West Hove, and David resigned earlier this year after several years on the committee. We thank them both for their service to the Friends and the community.

After today, we'll have gained five new officers: Myself, David Ryan, Annie Mendelow, and recently Jan Nichols and very soon, Andrea Martin.

I joined the Committee in May 2023, stepping into Trish's role first as the gardens representative. then later as co-chair, I adopted the Chairman responsibilities when David Ward resigned. Annie joins us as a committee member and works to take our committee projects forward, helping us to pursue connecting with other groups and liaise with the City Council and local elected representatives.

David, coming out of retirement, returns to us temporarily, managing our website and communications. Since returning, David has completely redesigned, built and renewed our website refreshed our branding, and has made all our marketing material new and up to date. David also authors the many news stories you read and publishes our quarterly newsletter.

Andrea and Jan join us with the intention to take the lead in garden initiatives, and to help organise a schedule of new social events.

So with almost an entirely new team in place, the focus this year has been to bring the organisation forward after several dormant years and to resolve the difficult relationships that were impeding the group. Moving forward we hope to grow our calendar of events, social activities and see more improvements to our area.

Our streetscapes have had several improvements this year. Street lamps have had a full makeover, all of them repainted, and repairs were made to those that were broken. We have recently installed a community noticeboard to share information important to local residents. We also hope to see our Bin and Recycling area improved. After many years of disrepair, we've finally seen the pathways in Adelaide gardens re-paved. We've long campaigned for the council to do this work, and this year managed to have a site visit with their operations team to see the state of things, and they finally agreed to make the necessary repairs. The water collection at the bottom of Adelaide is still a problem issue caused by blocked soak away drains, but we hope to see this resolved soon.

The composting scheme at the bottom of Adelaide continues under the leadership of our first volunteer leader, Clive Wedderburn. Working with the Brighton and Hove Food Partnerships, Clive leads a team of compost turners and makers, and has been instrumental initiating the garden plan framework. Clive has recently moved away from the area and told us he will likely step down mid to late summer, so we thank him for his service to the community and gardens and wish him well in the future. The regular Clean and Clear days that were organised through PAG volunteers and Cityclean, are now under our responsibility. Both Annie and Andrea recently attended a full day training course given by the council on managing volunteers in public spaces, and we look forward to seeing the garden program grow, progress, and prosper. We are obliged to work under the full guidance of the council rangers for any new planting and garden works being carried out.

As mentioned before, our website has had a complete overhaul, as well as our branding. We've moved away from the old logo that emphasised the word FOPA, and we've introduced a much more neighbourly 'Friends' look. We've also done a lot of work in the background bringing our member database into a more secure software, so that it complies with GDPR standards. We have also made it easier for you to make donations with a facility on the website.

We continue with a larger, more comprehensive 'Plan' for the gardens working together with the council. The gardens you see today were planned by the Friends and installed by the Council many years ago, but are now looking a bit overgrown due to lack of resource. With help from Catherine Melia, an RHS trained garden designer, we've identified what plants are existing, what new ones might be introduced, and we are now able to look at a more robust planting list. Thank you Catherine for your many hours of research and work on this. Also a big thank you to the volunteers who help clean and tidy, and we hope to see many improvements in the gardens over the coming years. The gardens themselves have a lovely design and layout but we aim to add more colour and variety, enriching with more perennials, and maintain them under the guidance of Geoff, Lena, and Vicky, our CityParks garden team.

Last year, we had a plant fundraising campaign, and raised just under a thousand pounds for new plants and bulbs. A very big thank you to all of you that made a donation. This fund allowed us to plant 3000 new daffodils, alliums, ferns, tulips, numerous wildflower plugs and seeds, as well as 15 new rose bushes. We will again this year be looking to raise funds for planting, and Annie is on hand later to receive your donations. And yes, we can now accept debit and credit cards!

Last year we were awarded a level 3, 'advancing' stage for the Sussex in Bloom competition. Entering again this year, judging will be in June or July, and we hope to achieve a higher level, so please keep your window boxes and basement areas full of colour!

A big thank you to our resident volunteer Wendy for keeping several bird feeders full through the winter months. We also keep the Palmeira birdbath clean and full with fresh water during the summer months. PAG provided three new feeders, and the Friends supplied over 70kg of Birdseed. The monthly water bill to maintain the birdbath remains under our responsibility and this is paid for with your donations.

Our relationship with the PAG fund is now on a better footing and we thank them for running their many garden events such as the easter egg hunt, and table sales. A group totally separate from ours, PAG raises funds from the community towards their own initiatives and remain independent from the Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide. We thank PAG for the recent use of their garden tools during Clean and Clear days and for their financial donation of £265 towards the planting fund.

Lastly on the gardens, a very special mention and thank you goes to one of our long-time resident members Stuart Grainger, who works tirelessly in the gardens almost daily. His contributions towards the garden initiative have really moved things forward with his shared ideas, hard graft, and own personal investment. So, we thank you Stuart. We also thank our two local elected representatives Andrei Czolak, and Jilly Stevens. With their help we have been able to continue with our work in the area and enable all residents to be heard, being our main connection to various council departments.

On the security front, unfortunately antisocial behaviour is forever on the rise, and we sadly continue to see drug deals, both human and pet defecation, litter, and graffiti plague our area. You may see our PCSO named Sophie in the area, she helps to patrol and keep an eye on policing issues, but we invite all residents to continue to report any unlawful behaviour you see, to the police. We also ask dog owners to please keep dogs on leads in the gardens by following the city byelaws, and to reduce social anxiety about dog attacks. We thank those responsible dog owners for picking up after your dogs, (and sometimes others) and plead with all owners to watch your dogs closely and pick up their mess, as it has become a bigger problem of late. Later on, I believe Jilly Stevens will speak about a new up and coming community program that will help us to reduce crime and drug taking in the area, so we look forward to more about that.

So that is the rundown for what we've achieved this year and we look forward to more activity during 2024 and 2025. It's not been easy, but we hope to bring the Friends into a new era with more garden involvement, and more social events to bring our community together. If you have some time to spare, I invite you to join the committee, or volunteer to help out. More hands makes for less work, so let us know if you can help out.

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer of enjoying our wonderful green spaces, as well as each other's good company. Thank You.

Ted Davis – Chairman

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

**Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide
Receipts and Payments Account
For the years ended 2022 and 2023**

	Payments	Receipts		Payments	Receipts
Receipts	2023	2023		2022	2022
Individual Donations		715			None
PAG FUND Donations		265			None
Payments					
Water Point Payments	91			35	
Room Hire	32			48	
Planting and Bird Seed	458			44	
Wild Flower Conservation	120			None	
Website Maintenance	144			144	
Printing	20			None	
Small items of Equipment	135			10	
	1000	980		281	None
Deficit for the Year		20			281
		1000			281
Represented by					
Bank Balance B/F		1153			1434