

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum

Midday, Saturday 26th November 2016

1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>It was noted that the Chair, Malcolm Kerr (MK), was unavoidably absent from the meeting. Emma Reid (ER) therefore chaired the meeting.</p> <p>ER opened the meeting and welcomed all the Friends. She also welcomed Patrick West (PW), Chris Reynolds (CR) and Julian Dormady (JD) of the FC.</p> <p>It was noted that a total of 22 members were in attendance, plus the FC staff mentioned above, Katherine Jary (KJ) and Mina McPhee (MM) of the Friends' team.</p>
2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>All the trustees were present with the exception of MK and John Gordon (JG), both of whom sent their apologies.</p>
3	<p>Matters arising from the minutes of the 23rd AGM</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the 23rd AGM.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of the 23rd AGM</p> <p>The minutes from the 23rd AGM were approved by the members in the meeting, and were then signed by ER.</p>
5	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>The Chair's report and the annual financial statements were made available to members in advance of the meeting. Hard copies were also provided to attendees. The reports were taken as read.</p> <p>ER invited questions for the Friends and FC from the members in attendance. The following question was asked and answered:</p> <p>How do the Friends decide which of the FC's grants to support? KJ explained the rigor of the grant making process, and, in particular, the reference to the relevant Friends' charitable objective that had to be made and approved in relation to each application.</p>
8	<p>Election of Trustees / Committee Members</p> <p>All existing trustees (listed below) offered themselves up for re-election. The reappointment of the trustees listed was approved by the meeting. KJ highlighted to members that the Friends would be inviting trustee applications in the near future, particularly from candidates with an interest in chairing the committee in due course.</p> <p>Malcolm Kerr (MK) – Chairman, John Gordon (JG) – Treasurer, Elspeth Hill (EH), Emma Reid (ER), Keith Webber (KW), Keith Brookbank (KB), Michael Paine (MP) and Emily Goodall (EG)</p>

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10	<p>AOB</p> <p>ER then opened the floor to questions. The following questions were asked and answered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When will the promised walking trails in the forest be introduced? Reference was made to the challenge of sharing space with cyclists. PW answered that there were no immediate plans to bring walker-only way-marked trails to the forest, but that the project remained on a list of potential future projects. Some debate followed that concluded that all user groups on site must find a way to use and share the site together, and to follow the guidance supplied by the FC to do so safely.• Why have the toilet facilities in the Walled Garden been closed? And why can members no longer park there? KJ explained the history of the Walled Garden parking privilege that was removed about 3 years ago as a result of privilege abuse. PW explained that it was no longer economic to maintain the Walled Garden facilities. They were not well used, were in need of substantial repair and were expensive to clean and maintain. The members asked that the Friends consider a grant to support the maintenance of Pinetum toilets.• Are the Friends-funded apprentices to be employed by the Friends or FC? PW explained that they were FC employees. The selected candidates started their roles recently. <p>There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 12.20pm.</p> <p>The members were then invited to join a guided tour of the Pinetum with former Bedgebury Curator, Chris Reynolds, and the Bedgebury's Julian Dormady.</p>
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Signed.....

Dated.....