

**Minutes of The Friends of Holland Park Annual General Meeting
held at 7.30pm on 10 April 2019 in The Orangery, Holland Park**

1. **Welcome:** Nigel Brockmann, who was chairing the meeting due to the indisposition of the President, Sir Angus Stirling, welcomed all those present.
2. **Apologies:** Sir Angus Stirling, Graham Franklin, Sandra French, Nicholas Hopkins, Louise Gotch, Joanna Irvin, Susan Wolfe.
3. **Approval of the minutes of the AGM of 18.4.18:** approved and signed.
4. **Trustees' report for the year 2018** (Andy Walker): the improvements to the Holland House terrace, the café yard, the stable yard roof and most of that of the Belvedere building had been completed. The Friends (FHP) had been consulted about plans for restoring the Adventure Playground. A grant of £11K would be received from the Mayor's Fund for Greening London to pay for restoration of the West Woodland Enclosure. The Friends would contribute £3K. FHP had published a children's guide to the park, and were running a children's pop-up-desk in some half-term breaks. They were continuing with the tree health programme, and were sponsoring Ecology Centre walks and talks. They were most grateful for the higher level of donations than in 2017. The art exhibition had achieved sales of over £10K. There had been two talks and two concerts. Events had generated a surplus of ca £5,465.
5. **Treasurer's report:** A Report of the Trustees incorporating Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2018 had been circulated. There had been a significant increase in donations, for which FHP were most grateful. The total claimed as Gift Aid had been £6,121: a lot more than in 2017. Income overall had increased by 19%. The cost of the newsletter was now less, due to a different printing process. Grants and Aims expenditure remained healthy, at £20,379. The year-end balance was higher than 2017, and it was hoped that more would be spent on the park this year.
6. **Secretary's report:** membership now stood at 1,035. About 50% were now joining online, but standing orders and Gift Aid were both down, perhaps because these could not be done (or done easily) online. Letterbox drops were now proving less effective. Jennie Kettlewell now gave talks about the park at which she was recruiting new members. Thanks were due to all helpers, such as the newsletter deliverers and those who helped organise events.
7. **Election of the trustees:** previously co-opted Richard Kulczycki was elected as a trustee. Simon Lindesay-Bethune had resigned. All other trustees were re-elected.
8. **Election of the independent examiner:** Roger Foreman was re-elected.
9. **Chairman's outlook for the year 2019:** Jennie Kettlewell said that conservation work on Holland House was now planned to start in the autumn. Permission had been acquired for the Florentine tiles on the causeways from the House to the Belvedere to be conserved at ca £12,155. She was grateful to Opera Holland Park for reducing their building and dismantling times. Re-landscaping of the Adventure Playground should be complete in May. FHP were contributing £3K to the restoration of the West Woodland Enclosure and ca £8K towards the fourth phase of the tree health programme. They were also funding the Ecology Service's walks and talks, but had ceased running the monthly Nature Walk due to lack of numbers. Two new Neighbours had joined the Friends & Neighbours scheme. FHP had a new tea towel for sale featuring wild flowers in the park; a bird guide to the park was shortly to be published. Inspector Mike Rumble had retired from the Parks Police which, from the end of 2019, would no longer be merged with the Hammersmith & Fulham police. FHP continued to be in discussion about anything to do with the park, and were working closely with the three supportive Holland Ward councillors. Rhoddy Wood was in need of an assistant in her huge task as secretary, especially relating to the database and fulfilling orders; this would not be a trustee role. Jennie Kettlewell listed future FHP events and encouraged all to attend in order to help fund improvements in the park.
10. **Any other business:** Questions from the floor.
11. **Close of official business:** Nigel Brockmann declared the Meeting closed at 8.47pm.