



## **FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Held on 7.00pm, Thursday 16 June 2022

Ivy Room, The Green, Nunhead Green

#### **Attendance**

##### Trustees

Jeremy Partington

Jeff Hart

Ann Coley

Carol Stevenson

Malcolm Collins

Teresa Neary

Gwyneth Stokes

Keith Turpin

Garry Wiles

Ron Woollacott

Maureen Woollacott

Chair

Coordinator

Treasurer

Vice-Chair and Minutes

##### Ordinary members

John Adams

Alan Croft

Matthew Hill (London Borough of Southwark Council) (LB Southwark)

Helen Hughes

Tom Pennant

Marion Romero-Jones

Robert Rush

Jill Smith

Tim Stevenson

Glynis Williams

George Young

#### **Apologies**

Mary-Ann Bonney

Michelle Burford

Jane Hart

Chris Knowles

Ish Lennox

Linda Martin

Simon Mercer

Alan Till

Pete Trotman

#### **Minutes**

##### **1 Chairman's Welcome**

Jeremy Partington (JP) welcomed all attendees to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery (FONC).

He thanked all trustees, volunteers, iD Verde and Southwark staff for their help over the past year. Voluntary workdays have resumed and a late Open Day was held in September 2021. This was well attended and had good feedback. JP noted that Open Day had returned to the traditional third Saturday in May in 2022 and had attracted about 4500 visitors, which could be a record.

JP said there was always a need for more volunteers and highlighted that the Open Day Co-ordinator, Tim Stevenson, was stepping down and a replacement was needed.

Monument restoration had continued during 2021-2022, and slow progress was being made on the planned repairs to the Limesford Road wall and the Anglican Chapel. Stabilisation and drainage work was progressing on the East Lodge. He thanked Jane Hart for all the hard work involved in the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application for the East Lodge restoration, which had been submitted on 24 May 2022. Once the next stage was in progress, we would need to fund-raise and he called for any volunteers with fund-raising experience.

## **2 Attendance and apologies**

See above

## **3 Minutes of the 2020/21 AGM held on 17 June 2021**

Matters of accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Adoption	Proposed	Jeremy Partington
	Seconded	Ann Coley

**The minutes were adopted.**

## **4 Trustees' Report**

Jeff Hart (JMH) presented the Trustees' Report

He highlighted the pleasing increase in membership and expressed relief at no longer having to manage bookings for tours to comply with Covid restrictions. Much work had been done over the year to raise the standards of governance of FONC to even higher standards and to update the web-site platform.

The Publications Enquiry Desk has played an important part in publicising the consultation on the East Lodge restoration which has had a high level of response.

The 2021 Open Day had 3,200 visitors and the 2022 one had 4,500 visitors and both were well received by both participants and attendees.

JMH welcomed the improved relations with LB Southwark enabling the submission of an excellent East Lodge NHLF grant application that met FONC's ambitions. In the meantime contractors preparatory work continues on site although he expressed regret at the extremely slow progress on the Anglican Chapel repair works.

Adoption	Proposed	Jeff Hart
	Seconded	Malcolm Collins

**The report was adopted.**

## **5 Practical Work Report**

Carol Stevenson introduced the Practical Work Report and noted that figures were now given for all volunteering work on site, thanking Ish Lennox for this innovation.

The practical work year had started with cutting up and removing the huge beech tree that fell on Easter Saturday and ended with clearing up after Storm Eunice. She thanked all the volunteers across the year and invited other people to join in.

**The report was noted.**

## 6 Treasurer's Report

Ann Coley (AC) presented the Treasurer's Report, explaining that as a small charity a receipts and payments model was used. Part of the grant towards the Open Day received in 2020/21 was spent in 2021/2022 due to the delayed Open Day. Gift Aid was high in 2020/2021 due to catching up from previous years, payments have now returned to normal. The purchase of i-Zettle card-readers has allowed us to take electronic payments. The unforeseen costs were for repair of monuments damaged by Storm Eunice; the contractors were already on-site doing work for Southwark Council so it made economic sense to engage them immediately.

AC explained the reserves policy and predicted that this would be updated in the coming year once the requirements of the East Lodge Project were known.

Adoption	Proposed	Ann Coley
	Seconded	Teresa Neary

**The report was adopted.**

## 7 Independent Examiner's Report

George Young said he had nothing to add to his report, and agreed that he would be happy to act as independent examiner next year.

**The report was noted**

## 8 Appointment of Trustees

Jeff Hart explained that one third (five) of the Trustees were required to step down each year but could be re-appointed after their three-year term. Prospective Trustees were identified and invited to join the Board by the other Trustees and subsequently endorsed by the AGM of members.

The following Trustees were standing down and not seeking re-appointment:

Malcolm Collins; Ish Lennox; Gwyneth Stokes. Alan Till had also just notified the Trustees that he also needed to stand down on health grounds. All were thanked for their contributions and would continue to be active in the Friends.

Special thanks were given to Gwyneth Stokes who had been with the FONC Committee/Trustees since 1983 (she is member number 15), and who is also the Secretary of the National Federation of Cemetery Friends. She was presented with a framed print of the Anglican Chapel as a token of appreciation

The following Trustees were standing down and seeking re-appointment in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution:

Ron Woollacott; Jeff Hart

A skills audit, prompted by the HLF application, has identified some areas of weakness in the current Board of Trustees, and Oliver Lomer has been identified as a new Trustee with relevant skills but was unable to attend the AGM due to being on honeymoon. The AGM endorsed the appointment of all three as Trustees. Further information will be published in the FONC Newsletter.

There are plans to amend the constitution to reflect a streamlined management structure for FONC; the amended constitution will be brought to the 2023 AGM.

## 9 Motions

No motions had been notified.

## 10 Any other business

Tim Stevenson let the meeting know that organising the annual Open Day was not an onerous task, but he did feel it needed somebody with fresh ideas. Planning needed to start six months in advance, and he would be happy to let any volunteer have all his data / information and talk them through the process.

There was then a break for refreshments (ably provided by Ann Coley, plus contributions from Keith Turpin and Jane Hart)

This was followed by a briefing on the draft Southwark Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Management Plan and an overview of other ongoing works at the cemetery, given by Matthew Hill, Project Manager for Parks and Open Spaces, LB Southwark.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.