



# FRIENDS OF NUNHEAD CEMETERY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held on Thursday 17 June 2021 by video conference

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## Trustees present:

Jeremy Partington (JP)	Chairman
Carol Stevenson (CS)	Vice-chairman
Ann Coley (AC)	Treasurer
Jane Hart (JCH)	Minutes Secretary
Jeff Hart (JH)	Co-ordinator
Simon Mercer (SM)	Membership Secretary
Ish Lennox (IL)	
Gwyneth Stokes (GS)	
Alan Till (AT)	
Keith Turpin (KT)	
Garry Wiles (GW)	
Maureen Woollacott (MW)	
Ron Woollacott (RW)	

[12 ordinary FONC members were also in attendance.]

## 1 Chairman's welcome and virtual meeting rules

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2021 FONC AGM. He explained that, similar to the 2020 AGM, this AGM would be held virtually and was intended to be a short business meeting followed by a brief PowerPoint presentation. He asked everyone to mute their audio and that anyone wishing to comment or ask a question during the meeting should use the *chat* or *raise hand* facility on Zoom. He identified the papers which were available from the FONC website.

## 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Michele Burford, Malcolm Collins and Linda Martin.

## 3 Minutes of 2020 AGM

### 3.1 Matters of accuracy

There were no matters of accuracy.

### 3.2 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

JP moved the adoption of the minutes as a correct record of the meeting.

Proposer: Jeff Hart

Seconder: Ann Coley

The minutes were duly adopted.

## 4 Chairman's report

The chairman, Jeremy Partington presented a short report in which he started by thanking everyone who had volunteered with FONC – on-site covering practical work, undertaking monument inscriptions, helping on the publications and enquiries desk, or off-site helping by delivering the FONC quarterly journal, writing articles for FONC News or helping with membership. He noted that the annual Open Day for 2021 would be held on Saturday 4 September and volunteers would be needed for this event to be successful. He identified that although the various lockdowns had curtailed FONC's onsite activities, such activities had gone ahead where easing of restrictions allowed. He reported that the ongoing delay regarding necessary repairs to the chapel had resulted in the cancellation of Royal Academician Dame Phyllida Barlow's much anticipated sculptural exhibition but he hoped that wherever the exhibition was now being exhibited that she might acknowledge that her inspiration came from the Cemetery. He noted that FONC had active participation on the East Lodge Project Board and that, after some fractious discussions earlier this year, the Board was now working together to progress the full restoration of the

East Lodge. The delay in progressing the work and continued deterioration of the building had resulted in increased costs so the London Borough of Southwark (LBS) was looking at the submission of an application in partnership with FONC to the Heritage Lottery Fund to resolve the funding gap.

## **5 Annual Report of the Trustees | June 2020 – 31 May 2021**

Jeff Hart noted that the report covered the period June 2020 to end May 2021. He highlighted that FONC membership had fallen during the past year but this might have been a result of COVID and less FONC presence on site. COVID had continued to impact FONC's activities but when regulations permitted FONC had recommenced activities as soon as possible with all such activities being subject to the preparation of appropriate risk assessments by Jane Hart which had been agreed by LBS. He also highlighted the following: the Open Day, planned for May 2020, had been cancelled but as a result of a relaxation of restrictions during the summer FONC had participated in the Open House weekend and had provided additional stalls including plants, monument inscription recording and refreshments during the weekend; the 2021 Open Day had been postponed to Saturday 4 September to coincide with Open House weekend – unfortunately this event would clash with the Peckham Rye Park fair but it was likely attendees would visit both locations; the quarterly FONC News continued to be produced and distributed to members; a new publication on symbols found in Nunhead Cemetery had been published and was due to be reviewed in the next newsletter; a booking system had been introduced for cemetery tours due to restrictions in numbers allowed to gather out of doors – although tours continued to be very popular, it was disappointing when people who had booked failed to turn up; numbers of monument inscription recording volunteers continued to grow assisted by the coordination of Garry Wiles; a well-attended and much enhanced All Souls Service had taken place which had included a choir from Nunhead's Lighthouse Cathedral; cemetery improvement work by LBS continued at a slow pace with the badly cracked surface around the Scottish Martyrs memorial finally being completed in May; monument repair work along the Dissenters Path delayed due to bad weather; electricity supply to the FONC portacabin which had failed in January had yet to be restored. The enabling works for the East Lodge had finally started in June 2020 but were yet to be completed as difficulties had arisen with appropriate drainage work. However after some fractious discussions, LBS gained a better appreciation of FONC's activities in the cemetery leading to revised and improved designs for the restored Lodge in which FONC would be provided with a dedicated office. Since space within the Lodge would be limited, LBS agreed that FONC's practical work would continue to be based within renewed portacabin facilities at the existing location. As identified by the Chairman, LBS was looking to submit an application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund to resolve the funding gap that had been identified to fully restore the Lodge which seemed likely to be successful.

JP thanked JH for his report. After inviting questions from those present, he then moved the formal adoption of the report.

Proposer: Garry Wiles

Secunder: Carol Stevenson

The report was adopted.

## **6 Practical onsite voluntary work report**

CS presented the report, identifying the hard work done by volunteers in looking after the cemetery, even though due to lockdowns half of the workdays during the year had been unable to go ahead. She noted that the work on site during the period of the report (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021) had been undertaken with appropriate COVID controls in place.

She reported that volunteers had spent time on site clearing fallen trees from paths, removing piles of material left over from works during the closed period, and making safe / removing the various dens and other items left in the cemetery. She thanked all the volunteers who had contributed well over 300 hours of work and appealed for more volunteers to help with the work.

JP thanked CS and invited questions from those present.

The report was noted.

## **7 Treasurer's report**

AC presented the report. She noted that the accounts were presented on a receipts / expenditure basis. She noted that, even though there had been less activity by FONC in the cemetery due to lockdowns reducing income, there had also been less expenditure. The Open House weekend receipts had made up for some of the shortfall from the receipts that would have come from the Open Day. FONC had increased its donation for wreaths for Remembrance Sunday. FONC had been awarded two grants – one for tools which had now been purchased, the other for facilities at the Open Day which was carried over by LBS to the 2021 September Open Day. She further noted that gift aid receipts were lower as a result in

recent changes to the FONC charity number. She also noted that FONC now had electronic payment facilities which could be used on site. She thanked Simon and Cathy Mercer for their hard work in their management of memberships which helped her considerably in sorting out the accounts.

JP thanked AC for her report. After inviting questions, he then moved the formal adoption of the report.

Proposer: Jane Hart

Secunder: Carol Stevenson

The report was adopted.

## **8 Independent examiner's report**

JP highlighted the independent examiner's report, prepared by George Young, noting that this was not a requirement of the Charity Commission but that the Trustees believed that this was good practice. He proposed a vote of thanks for George Young and it was noted that George was willing to review FONC's accounts for 2022.

## **9 Election of Trustees**

JH explained the FONC Constitution allowed for 15 Trustees. He noted that in accordance with the Clause 13 of the Constitution, the four longest serving Trustees were required to stand down but were seeking re-election. The remaining Trustees would automatically continue their term of appointment. The Trustees standing down and seeking re-election were:

Jane Hart (Minutes Secretary); Ish Lennox; Alan Till; Keith Turpin

It was agreed to take the nominations as a group.

JH further noted that there was one vacancy as Trustees. Teresa Neary volunteered for this vacancy.

All were duly elected by unanimous agreement.

## **10 Motions**

No motions were proposed.

## **11 AOB**

No other business was proposed.

The business part of the meeting was then concluded at 8.05pm.

JP thanked members for their patience with the virtual proceedings and noted that FONC hoped to hold the normal AGM in June 2022.

Tim Stevenson then gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the trees in Nunhead Cemetery detailing how different species grew and regenerated.