

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF BELPER RIVER GARDENS HELD AT THE STRUTT CENTRE ON 19th OCTOBER 2022.

Present: Les Dorey, Dorothy Griffin, Trevor Griffin, Janet Honey, Betty Shelmerdine, Ursula Storer, Celia Weaver, Ian Webster.

Apologies: Kim Kerry, Christine Shawcross, Paul Stuart.

Cllr.Katie Harris, Mayor of Belper, attended the meeting before the formal business noted below began. She thanked the Group for its work over the years and said that the Town Council would help if needed.(we have also had an email from the Town Clerk):

"I reported your news on the possible dissolution of the Friends of Belper River Gardens to a meeting of Council, and they have asked me to contact you to let you know how much they have appreciated the work that you have done over the past few years and asked that I pass on their sincere thanks to you and all of your colleagues.

It is a great shame that you no longer feel able to continue your work in this area, and Council wish you all the best for the future.

Kind regards

Deb

Debra Townsend PSLCC, CiLCA | Town Clerk | Tel 01773 822116

BELPER TOWN COUNCIL

St John's Chapel | The Butts | Belper | Derbyshire | DE56 1HX"

Dorothy thanked Cllr.Harris for her kind attendance, appreciation and offer of support, on behalf of the Group.

1. The problems that the Group are experiencing through lack of activity by Amber valley Borough Council were discussed. It was felt that the lack of momentum made the running of a voluntary group, with its associated costs and time commitments untenable. Trevor proposed and Janet seconded that the Group should be dissolved, this was voted for unanimously by the members present.
2. Trevor pointed out that Belper Community Enterprise would continue to exist to deal with the residual matters associated with the funds which were raised to be spent on projects within the Belper River Gardens.
3. It was agreed that Janet and Trevor would be responsible for the winding up process, with others helping as appropriate.

4. Janet reported that the Group's funds were £8007. It was agreed to dispose of these funds as follows: £5425, which was transferred from the "Buy-a-brick" fund to be transferred back to Belper Community Enterprise as a restricted fund for expenditure in the River Gardens only, £1000 to be donated to the Herbert Strutt Charity. and remaining funds to be equally split between three Belper charities or community groups. Members were asked to make proposals on which Groups should receive these donations.
5. It was agreed that the two Lloyd's Bank accounts that the Friends of Belper River Gardens holds, will be closed.
6. It was agreed that the folding chairs owned by the Group would be disposed of as follows, those currently stored at the River Gardens to be offered to Belper Town Council, 20 of the others to Belper Wind Band and the remainder to Strutt's Centre Limited. In all cases this was to be conditional upon the recipients continuing to loan chairs to other Belper community organisations for events as the Friends Group has been doing.
7. It was agreed that the sound system would also be donated to the Strutt's Centre Limited on condition that it would be made available to Belper community groups where reasonable and practical.
8. Trevor proposed that the members could stay in touch if they agreed to individually, through Mailchimp and the Facebook page as informal volunteers helping look after the planters at the tearooms and other similar activities, applying for funding from Belper Community Enterprise if needed.
9. Janet proposed and Ian seconded that a "Thank you" celebration event should be organised in the near future, the date of Saturday 5th November was agreed for this and Dorothy agreed to organise it.
10. It was agreed to inform AVBC, the Town Council and the public (via Facebook and the River Gardens noticeboard) of the dissolution of the Friends Group.