

# FRIENDS OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES (CHAT) PARKS

England & Wales · Charity number 1166255

## Details

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**Other names** FRIENDS OF CHAT PARKS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-03-30

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF WAKEFIELD AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION AND OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PRESERVATION, PROMOTION, SUPPORT, ASSISTANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES PARKS.

**Activities:** Preserve and protect the amenities of the Park for the benefit of all users.Encourage maximum use of all parts of the Park by a wide range of public.Encourage high standards of maintenance of the Park and facilities

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- City Of Wakefield

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£19,686	£19,705	-	-
2023-12-31	£14,694	£15,487	-	-
2022-12-31	£11,447	£14,512	-	-
2021-12-31	£38,975	£5,864	-	-
2020-12-31	£2,028	£3,017	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
IAN JOHN DEIGHTON	Chair	2017-03-22
BRIAN ELSE		2017-03-22
CHRIS WELCH		2017-03-22
Giuseppe John Brandi		2024-06-12
JEAN REEVE BA DIP T P		2017-03-22
MEREWYN SAYERS		2017-03-22
Margaret Kershaw		2022-04-21
PETER STOKES		2017-03-22

**FRIENDS OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES (CHAT) PARKS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166255

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# Accounts

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# FRIENDS OF CHaT PARKS.

(Reg. Charity no: 1166255 )

## Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting

14 July 2025 at 7.00 pm

- 1 **Present:** 14 members of the Group
- 2 **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to this the 16<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Group
- 3 **Apologies** have been received from Janet Deighton, Ruth McCallum, Kevin Trickett, Brian Ward, Paul and Deborah Archer, Peter and Linda Breeze and Rachel Winstanley
- 4 **Minutes of AGM 2024:** these were agreed as a correct record.
- 5 **Matters arising:** There were no matters other than those covered by the Agenda
- 6 **Chairman's Report:**

I must start by reminding you that we lost Margaret Dodd in August. She had been a Committee member for some seven years and we will miss her very much.

This has been a very busy year and I will just give an overview of events. Our aim has always been to keep up the highest standards, and this year has given us some challenges, but our volunteers have all done a great job. I am proud of them all.

I have had health problems early in the year, but have now been rebuilt and hope to contribute more again.

- a) **Toilets:** This was raised at our first AGM and we have put forward several ideas. I am very pleased that the proposal to build at the ticket office is now going ahead.
- b) **The Lake:** The leak has been fixed. There is no longer a smell and the grassed areas are going to be tarmacked.
- c) **Clarence Steps:** Funding for repair is available, but there have been significant delays and we are pressing the Council to make a start before more damage is caused.
- d) **Gentlemen's Shelter:** We have pressed for years for the building to be repaired, but it is now beyond repair. We are discussing what can be done about the site.
- e) **Aviary:** Jason has had to give up the management and we thought we had lost that asset, but we have another volunteer who, together with a small group, has taken the project on. I must thank Bill Bannister for the continuation of one of the attractions of the Park.
- f) **Secret Garden:** This has had more than its share of problems. Mindless vandalism is a real issue, but the team, led by Keith Hant, have managed to keep going. The better use of CCTV and a stronger police presence will help.
- g) **Games of Thornes:** This is getting more and more popular. The public really appreciate the availability of the games. This is another area where we do need more volunteers. We will be open seven days a week over the school summer break.
- h) **Management Plan:** This is essential if we are to bid successfully for grants etc. Work is progressing with the Council.
- i) **Fireworks Event:** The Council are committed to keep this going.
- j) **Classic Vehicle Gathering:** One of the biggest events in the Park. We have helped to keep the event going, but we do not want to be responsible for its continuing. Our role, as with all such events, is to support and advise the group managing the event.

- k) Car Boot Sales: This is still our main source of income, which is necessary to buy the flowers for the formal garden each year. It means a very early start on a Sunday morning and again more volunteers are needed.

I have mentioned the need for volunteers, and I will repeat the request. Often the ideas for projects outpace the available help. We have been rather stretched this year and we are always looking to increase our numbers.

There are two issues which we need to be aware of and for which I may well be seeking support from members in the future.

1. Drainage issues on the Events Field near to the children's playground.
2. Developments on the Penny Appeal campus site.

I want to finish by once again thanking all the Committee and volunteers for their work'

Everyone on the Games of Thornes

Jean for being our Social Media manager

Margaret for keeping the books

Chris for a range of tasks and for keeping everything running during my absence.

Chris then asked for members to show their appreciation for the great work which Ian has done this year, despite his health issue. He is the glue which binds the team together.

## **7 Finance Report**

The accounts for 2024 were circulated to the meeting and Margaret asked for any questions. It was explained that the Restricted Fund for Tennis has arisen from a grant from Wakefield Council to encourage wider participation in the sport.

Margaret said that the accounts had been examined by John McCarthy and he had not charged for his work.

The approved figures are now available on the Charity Commission website.

## **8 Committee Membership**

In accordance with our Constitution, one third of the Committee stood down. The three longest-serving members are Merewyn, Brian and Chris. All three were re-elected along with the rest of the Committee.

The Committee now comprises nine members; Ian Deighton, Margaret Kershaw, Jean Reeve, Peter Stokes, Merewyn Sayers, Brian Else, Brenda Ashurst, Joe Brandi and Chris Welch.

The formal Annual General Meeting finished at 8.10 pm

## Friends of CHaT Parks Accounts - 2024 - Financial Activity

### Unrestricted funds

Income		Expenditure		Balance
Membership	£591.42	Aviary	£489.04	
Donations	£1,782.24	Secret Garden	£185.91	
Honey	£896.00	Office Costs	£631.42	
Car Boot Sales	£3,981.01	Bedding Plants	£3,705.30	
Flowers & Sales	£944.21	Honey	£700.00	
Books	£0.00	Vouchers	£270.00	
Teddy Stall	£115.00	Donations	£250.00	
Cashback	<u>£9.68</u>	tennis courts	£2,750.00	
	£8,319.56	misc	<u>£481.29</u>	-£1,143.40
				£9,462.96

### Restricted fund - Tennis

Income		Expenditure		
	nil	Coaching Fees	£5,625.00	
				£5,625.00
				-£5,625.00

### Restricted Fund- Ticket Office

Income		Expenditure Restricted - Ticket Office			
Receipts	£11,366.21	Costs	£4,617.16	<u>£4,617.16</u>	£6,749.05
	<u>£11,366.21</u>				
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£19,705.12</b>	<b>-£19.35</b>
		<b>£19,685.77</b>			

## Friends of CHaT Parks Accounts - 2024 - Account Balances

	<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>	<u>Restricted Fund - Tennis</u>	<u>Restricted Fund - Ticket Office</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance	£25,957.05	£11,296.20	£13,854.90	£51,108.15
Operational Balance	<u>-£1,143.40</u>	<u>-£5,625.00</u>	<u>£6,749.05</u>	-£19.35
Closing balance	£24,813.65	£5,671.20	£20,603.95	£51,088.80

Cash in hand Dec 31 £64.23

Closing balance on bank account: £51,088.80

**FRIENDS OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES (CHAT) PARKS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166255

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# Accounts

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# FRIENDS OF CHaT PARKS.

(Reg. Charity no: 1166255 )

## Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting

12 June 2024 at 7.00 pm

- 1 **Present:** 22 members of the Group
- 2 **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to this our 15th AGM.
- 3 **Apologies** have been received from Kevin Trickett, Lesley and Peter Taylor, Olivia Rowley, Geoff Wood, Mike O'Donnell, Linda and Peter Breeze, Susan Morgan, Margaret Dodd, Christine Sharman, Deborah Archer and David Pickersgill.
- 4 **Minutes of AGM 2023:** these were agreed as a correct record.
- 5 **Matters arising:** There were no matters other than those covered by the Agenda.

### 6 **Chairman's Report:**

Ian reminded the meeting that he had started last year's report with a comment on the rain we had suffered, but this last year was even worse. We had suffered several cancellations and problems with standing water in a number of places. The Council have engaged consultants to investigate drainage throughout the park, but we are still awaiting an effective solution.

The Group has been involved in a series of meetings with the Council to prepare a 10-year plan for the park. This is important, not only to show where action is needed, it is also vital if external funding is being sought.

Penny Appeal have won their appeal against the refusal of Planning Permission for their existing operations. Our main concern is what will be allowed to happen in the future. There are conditions on the approval which are aimed at protecting the park. We need to be vigilant and make sure the protection is effective. We hope to work with Penny Appeal.

The Secret Garden is one of the most popular features in the Park and it is very much appreciated by the public. We must thank the team of workers who have produced such a benefit.

The Aviary is also a most popular attraction and Jason deserves thanks from us all.

The Games of Thornes is another part of the park which the public greatly appreciate. We must thank all the volunteers who keep it going. The honey produced by the Wakefield and Pontefract Beekeepers is another attraction here.

The bedding plants in the Flower Garden are being planted out this week. The Friends Group pay for the plants in the spring, if it were not for us the beautiful displays would not happen.

Ian noted that, although grants are available for projects, we need regular income streams for day-to-day expenses. Car Boot Sales are one of the major sources of finance for the Group. They meet the cost of the bedding plants and it is vital that we keep them going, Volunteers are needed to operate them and Ian encouraged all members to help if possible, if only for part of the day.

Next month will see the first Classic Vehicle Show for several years. This is one of the biggest events in the Park and it has been greatly missed.

Unfortunately last year's firework display had to be cancelled because of the condition of the field.

Ian stressed the need for members of the Group. We can only do things if we have the member resources. More members means more help and more influence.

He thanked the Committee members for their work throughout the year. Margaret Kershaw for her role as Treasurer, Margaret Dodd as Minutes Secretary, Jean Reeve for publicity and social media, Peter Stokes for work in the Secret Garden, Merewyn Sayers for IT and social media work, Brenda Ashurst for general support and Joe Brandi for work at events. Chris Welch for several help roles.

Ian concluded by once again thanking all the volunteers involved in the wide range of projects. He hoped that we can look forward to more successes next year.

Chris then reminded the meeting that we all owed a great deal to Ian for leading the Committee for 15 years. Without him we would not have achieved half of the successes we have seen.

Following questions from the members it was agreed that we would try to hold more open meetings, and, if possible, produce a newsletter

It was further agreed that we should continually seek external funding for our projects

### **7. Financial Report:**

Margaret referred to the paper of financial activities which had been made available to the meeting, which showed how our finances were divided into restricted and unrestricted funds. In response to questions Ian explained that the income from Car Boot Sales is not “ring-fenced”. He noted that the last one had been very busy, probably too busy as we had to turn some visitors away.

Ian thanked Margaret for her report.

### **8. Means of Verification of Accounts**

The accounts have been examined by Mr John McCarthy and found accurate. It was agreed to make an honorarium payment of £50 to Mr McCarthy for his work, but he immediately gave that back as a donation to the Group.

Agreed that we ask Mr McCarthy to examine the books again for 2024

### **9. Membership of the Committee**

Our Constitution requires that one third of the Committee stands down at each AGM. They are then eligible for re-election. In accordance with this, Margaret Kershaw, Jean Reeve and Brenda Ashurst stood down.

These three members, together with the remaining members were elected unanimously.

Joe Brandi was elected as a new member to the Committee and as a Trustee

The Committee now comprises ten members; Ian Deighton, Margaret Kershaw, Margaret Dodd, Jean Reeve, Peter Stokes, Merewyn Sayers, Brian Else, Brenda Ashurst, Joe Brandi and Chris Welch

### **10. Any other relevant business;**

- a) Rachel Winstanley referred to the number of small grants available, especially to a Registered Charity. Merewyn pointed out that bid-writing skills are quite specialised, but we always try to use external funds whenever appropriate.
- b) Peter Clark mentioned the uneven ground outside the ticket office. Ian said that the scheme to refurbish the building, including public toilets, will require much resurfacing work.
- c) Brian Else said that there are several places where paths are uneven and needed repair work. He also raised the idea of a “sensory garden”. It was stressed that any project must include provision for maintenance.
- d) Merewyn raised the issue of the work needed at the Arena and the “Gentleman’s Shelter” which has become an eyesore. Ian said that there is funding available for repairing the steps and a possibility of some artwork to shield the building.

The AGM closed at this point.

## **Looking Forward**

Several issues were discussed and views put forward.

### **a) Conservatory**

This is to be one of our priorities for the coming year. We want to get the Conservatory open again for the public. Although the building is structurally sound, there are problems with plants growing through the roof and also vandalism issues. It is important to make the building weather-tight. Cactus cannot stand damp conditions. Problems with the heating system must be addressed.

In addition to making the Conservatory safe for the public, we need a Maintenance Plan to define what needs to be done and who can do it. Volunteers will be essential.

It is suggested that we should arrange a visit the conservatory at Temple Newsam to learn from their experience.

### **b) Signage**

Several years ago we arranged for 3 signs to be provided. We need a plan for more. We also need a leaflet with a map.

## Friends of CHaT Parks Accounts - 2023 - Financial Activity - 3.0

### Unrestricted funds

Income		Expenditure		Balance
Membership	£897.35	Aviary	£231.98	
Donations	£704.00	Secret Garden	£118.82	
Honey	£1,176.00	Office Costs	£418.07	
Car Boot Sales	£2,128.00	Bedding Plants	£4,641.66	
Flowers & Sales	£1,606.98	Honey	£773.50	
Books	£145.00	Vouchers	<u>£520.00</u>	
HSBC a/c closure	£79.60			£6,704.03
Cashback	<u>£17.63</u>			
	£6,754.56			£50.53

### Restricted fund - Tennis

Income		Expenditure		
	nil	Coaching Fees	£7,500.00	
				£7,500.00
				-£7,500.00

### Restricted Fund- Ticket Office

Income		Expenditure Restricted - Ticket Office			
Receipts	£7,939.10				
	<u>£7,939.10</u>	Costs	£1,283.00	<u>£1,283.00</u>	£6,656.10
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£15,487.03</b>	<b>-£793.37</b>

## Friends of CHaT Parks Accounts - 2023 - Account Balances

	<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>	<u>Restricted Fund - Tennis</u>	<u>Restricted Fund - Ticket Office</u>	<u>Total</u>
Opening Balance **	£25,906.52	£18,796.20	£7,198.80	£51,901.52
Operational Balance	<u>£50.53</u>	<u>-£7,500.00</u>	<u>£6,656.10</u>	-£793.37
Closing balance	£25,957.05	£11,296.20	£13,854.90	£51,108.15

\*\* Sum of HSBC and Virgin

Cash in hand Dec 31      £64.23

**FRIENDS OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES (CHAT) PARKS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166255

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# Accounts

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# FRIENDS OF CHaT PARKS.

(Reg. Charity no: 1166255 )

## Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting

18 May 2023 at 7.00 pm

- 1 Present:** 22 members of the Group
- 2 Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to this re-convened AGM following the cancellation of the first arrangements due to weather issues.
- 3 Apologies** have been received from Janet Deighton, Geoff Wood, Jean Chaplin, Kevin Trickett, Margaret Dodd, Jean Reeve, Kate Honeyman, Liz Wildey, Lynn and Terry Coen and Rachel Winstanley
- 4 Margaret Morgan:** Before starting the meeting Ian asked all to remember Margaret Morgan, one of our founding members, who died earlier this year. He called for a minute's silence in her memory.
- 5 Minutes of AGM 2022:** these were agreed as a correct record.
- 6 Matters arising:** There were no matters other than those covered by the Agenda
- 7 Chairman's Report:**

Ian reminded us that after the previous year's disturbance from Covid, we had hoped that things would improve, but he said life was not yet back to normal, there are still issues to be dealt with. He commented on various matters;

- a) Penny Appeal. They have submitted an appeal against the Council's refusal of planning consent. Ian thanked all members who had sent in objections to the planning application and to the inspector for the planning appeal. We are now awaiting the inspector's decision. There is no deadline for this. We just have to wait and see whether the inspector upholds the Council's refusal, grants the original application, or puts conditions on any approval. Ian pointed out that our objection is not against Penny Appeal as such, just against their proposed use of Thornes House.
- b) Fireworks. This has for many years been a major event in the Park. When the Council decided to stop holding the event the Friends Group managed to get a grant from the Council to enable Melvyn Eddy to put on a display. The Council have now decided that they will manage the event. They have realised how much people value it. It will be promoted as a joint venture between the Council and the Friends Group.
- c) Games of Thornes. Another venture which the Friends have kept going. Again this has proved very popular with Park users. It takes a lot of

volunteer time and Ian said how grateful he was to the volunteers, and to Janet Deighton for organising the rotas every week, even when on holiday in Cyprus. We have managed to get the tennis courts rebuilt and then the ticket office, with new windows and back doors and the roller shutters. We have obtained a grant to provide tennis coaching, especially for young people to introduce them to the sport. Extra benefits from the opening of the ticket office include the sale of Thornes Park Honey and the Book Exchange.

- d) The Aviary. Thanks to Jason who manages the aviary it was kept open through the Covid problems and the Bird Flu issues. This is another well-known addition to the benefits of the Park and is greatly appreciated by visitors.
- e) Ian referred to what is probably the favourite part of the park for most visitors. The Secret Garden. The team responsible deserve (and received) a round of applause from everyone. Their tremendous hard work is very much appreciated. The Garden suffers a degree of vandalism, but the team just keep going despite all difficulties.
- f) Conservatory in the Rose Garden is suffering major issues at present. There have been several attacks by vandals and the heating system is broken.
- g) Bedding Plant display. Another feature of the Park which the Council decided to abandon. The Friends took on the challenge several years ago and there is now a riot of colour at the height of summer. This constitutes one of our major expenses which we need to raise funds for. The Family Services service users play an invaluable role in looking after the plants prior to planting out. The Council has now realised the benefit they offer and has recruited them to help restore some town-centre displays
- h) Children's Play Area. The Friends Group has been campaigning for this for some time, and it is good to see it come to fruition. It is extremely well used and is yet another addition to the Park facilities.
- i) Finance. Ian set out some of the financial issues we faced, having to combine four accounts into one and then changing to a new bank. He thanked Brian for his work as Treasurer ever since the Group started. Ian introduced Margaret Kershaw as our new Treasurer.
- j) Publicity. Ian thanked Jean Reeve for her work on our website and other social media. This is becoming more and more important as a way of letting people know what is planned and what is happening

Ian concluded by once again thanking all the volunteers involved in the wide range of projects. He hoped that we can look forward to more successes next year.

## **8. Financial Report:**

Brian introduced the subject by describing the change from having four bank accounts with HSBC to having just one and then transferring that to Virgin Money. The main reason for the changes was HSBC starting to levy a monthly charge on each account and also a charge on every transaction.

Chris then explained the financial statement for the year which had been distributed to the meeting.. He said that the finances for the tennis coaching project had been kept as a restricted fund with income and expenditure kept as a separate “pot” because the fund came from a grant and we would have to show how that grant had been spent.

Similarly the accounts for the Games of Thornes were kept in a separate “pot” because we had agreed that the profits from the project would be passed to Wakefield Council to offset their maintenance costs

The remaining income and expenditure is kept as an unrestricted fund.

The accounts showed a year-end position just over £3,000 below the 2021 year-end figure.

## **9. Means of Verification of Accounts**

The accounts have been examined by Mr John McCarthy and found accurate. It was agreed to pay Mr McCarthy £50 for his work, but he immediately gave that back as a donation to the Group.

Agreed that we ask Mr McCarthy to examine the books again for 2023

## **10. Membership of the Committee**

Our Constitution requires that one third of the Committee stands down at each AGM. They are then eligible for re-election. In accordance with this, Ian, Margaret Dodd and Peter Stokes stood down.

These three members, together with the remaining members were elected unanimously.

The Committee now comprises nine members; Ian Deighton, Margaret Kershaw, Margaret Dodd, Jean Reeve, Peter Stokes, Merewyn Sayers, Brian Else, Brenda Ashurst and Chris Welch

Ian asked for any other volunteer to join the Committee to share the workload.

## **11. Any other relevant business;**

- a) David Pickersgill referred to the wide range of grants which are available for charity bodies such as the Friends Group. It was noted that we had received a grant from the Co-op last year valued at £1,375.93. It was agreed that we should be aware of all grants and apply for those deemed appropriate. David undertook to monitor the availability of grants
- b) David asked about an A-board for the bowls within the Games of Thornes. Agreed we should try to obtain one.

## **12. Thanks to Chairman**

In conclusion Chris reminded everyone of the tremendous work which Ian does for the Group. He has led us since our foundation and everyone agreed that, without him, we would not have achieved the successes we have. Ian was given a round of applause.

The AGM closed at this point.

## Friends of CHaT Parks Accounts - 2022 - Financial Activity

Unrestricted funds		Expenditure	Balance
Income			
Memberships	£1,022.10	Aviary £241.92	
Donations	£501.00	Secret Garden £776.34	
Co-op Grant	£1,375.93	Office Costs £324.56	
MK fundraising	£70.00	Christmas Concert £100.00	
Cashback	<u>£0.80</u>	Bank Charges £170.98	
	£2,969.83	Bedding plants <u>£4,028.03</u>	-£2,672.00
<b>Restricted Funds - Tennis</b>			
Income	nil	Expenditure	
		Coaching Fees £7,500.00	
		Publicity <u>£91.80</u>	-£7,591.80
<b>Restricted Fund - Ticket Office</b>			
Income		Expenditure	
Receipts	£8,477.27	Wages £1,067.70	
	<u>£8,477.27</u>	Costs <u>£210.77</u>	£7,198.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£11,447.10</b>	<b>£14,512.10</b>	<b>-£3,065.00</b>

## Friends of CHaT Parks Accounts - 2022 - Account Balances

	<u>Unrestricted Fund</u>	<u>Restricted Fund - Ticket Office</u>	<u>Restricted Fund - Tennis</u>	Total
Opening Balance	£28,578.52	nil	£26,388.00	£54,966.52
Operational Balance	-£2,672.00	<u>£7,198.80</u>	-£7,591.80	-£3,065.00
Closing Balance	£25,906.52	£7,198.80	£18,796.20	£51,901.52

Cash in hand £64.23

**FRIENDS OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES (CHAT) PARKS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166255

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# Accounts

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# FRIENDS OF CHaT PARKS.

(Reg. Charity no: 1166255 )

## Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting

21 April 2022 at 7.00 pm

**1 Present:** 27

**2 Apologies:**

**3 Welcome:** Members were welcomed to the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM meeting by Ian Deighton (Chair), noting that it had been 2 years since we were able to hold the meeting in person.

**4 Minutes of AGM 2021:** these were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5 Matters arising:** nil

**6 Chairman's Report:** Ian thanked everyone who has worked throughout this year. The Games area opened at Easter, but the public are not allowed into the Ticket Office. Tennis proving very popular and the nets will be kept up through the winter. Players have continued to pay.

Many usual events have not been able to happen e.g. car rally. Major events that have happened were the Music Festival and the Fireworks, which went very well.

Thanks to Melvyn Eddy for his work.

Thanks also to the Family Services trainees and the people planting up the Formal gardens.

Many good comments about the Secret Garden but it has experienced some vandalism. We celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening in June.

Not much has been able to be done in the Conservatory, but two new volunteers are now working in the middle section to enhance it.

The Aviary work has continued despite Covid and bird flu. Thanks to Jason for his work.

Many trials have been experienced but they have been overcome.

Planned work - the children's play area, Clarence Park Arena, the Lake - should be completed next year.

Other structures are needing improvement e.g. Ticket Office.

Tennis - new courts are proving popular. A grant from WMDC means an increase in people being able to access tennis and coaching.

**Financial Report:-**

See separate sheets for full accounts for the year.

These show 4 accounts, which will be merged into one before transferring the account to another bank. The transfer papers have been signed.

The Accounts were agreed.

HSBC are now charging £5 per month for each account and 40p per item for transactions.

No car boot sales have taken place because of Covid restrictions. Brian Else is standing down as Treasurer and he was thanked for his work over the years. Margaret Kershaw was appointed Treasurer. Mrs Crowther has examined our accounts but is no longer able to do it. It was agreed we pay her £75 for her work.

**Website:** Jean Reeve oversees this. We have a new company - 34sp - and it was agreed we send a letter of thanks to David Florence.

Facebook has 2,400 followers.

Thanks were offered to Jean for her work on our behalf.

**Car Boot Sales:** Linda has organised them in the past but is now stepping down from this role. Thanks were expressed to Linda for the work she has done.

We have 4 licences that are paid for.

**Trustees:**

Miriam is standing down because of work commitments. Thanks offered to for her contributions in the past.

A new trustee was appointed - Margaret Kershaw. Brenda Ashurst is considering taking up the role.

In addition, Merewyn and Chris are due to stand down but are available for re-election. This was agreed. The Trustees are now:-

Ian Deighton	Chris Welsh	Merewyn Sayers	Margaret Morgan
Margaret Dodd	Peter Stokes	Margaret Kershaw	Jean Reeve

Thanks were expressed to Ian for all his work.

That completed the Agenda for the AGM

\* \* \* \* \*

There followed a general discussion on the work in the park.

**Penny Appeal:** the planning application is very vague and needs to be more specific. No date yet for the planning committee. Rewiring is being done in the building.

**Vandalism:** CCTV installed in Secret Garden and is running. This year we celebrate 10 years since the Secret Garden was opened and we look to have a celebration.

**Ticket Office:** new doors and windows to be installed, as well as fascia boards. Electric shutters to go over windows. The Friends group will contribute to the costs.

**Lake:** needing to make it a healthier environment. The bottom end needs clearing of leaves, the water flow cannot be increased, there is not a lot of silt. The lake is not suitable for fish, needs a way of aerating it, walkway needs hard landscaping, and there is a problem with rats. These are matters of maintenance.

**Clarence Park Arena:** needs maintenance, and new vertical panels to be installed on the steps.

**Shelter:** not much left of it! It is part of the park's heritage and needs to be restored.

**Gates near arena:** to be restored.

**Paxton Corner:** still an idea to progress and it would give access to the castle site.

**Bandstand:** it has had two redevelopments. Problem with flooding. We agreed we would support brass band concerts.

**Conservatory:** two new volunteers working in the middle section.

**Trees:** some have been chopped down and concern expressed whether new ones are being planted. We felt a plan was needed. The Queen's Green Canopy is encouraging people to plant a tree for the Jubilee.

**Pet's Cemetery:** A plan is needed for this area.

**Park Wardens:** doing work in the park. Their priorities seem to be tidying up the shrubs, and will help with bunkers on Golf course. We felt they needed to be more visible. Possibility of asking for a speaker for one of our meetings.

**Perimeter walls:** Streetscene are responsible for their maintenance.

**Bee hives:** these will be installed near Open Country area.

Community Ambassadors are around in the park.

**Book Exchange:** to be set up in the Ticket Office using the old store room.

Helen Antcliffe is taking responsibility. Working on the same principle as 'Little Library'.

The meeting then closed,



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Friends of CHaT Parks	No (if any) 1166255
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## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2021	To	Period end date 12/31/2021
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>				
Membership Fees	888	-	-	888
Donations	1,324	-	-	1,324
Games Income	7,225	288	-	7,513
Sale of Flowersetc	1,250	-	-	1,250
Tennis Project Grant	-	28,000	-	28,000
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>10,687</b>	<b>28,288</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,975</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>10,687</b>	<b>28,288</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,975</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>				
Purchase of Plants	3,119	-	-	3,119
Repairs and Naintenance	518	-	-	518
Office costs	327	-	-	327
Tennis Project costs	-	1,900	-	1,900
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,964</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,864</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,964</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,864</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>6,723</b>	<b>26,388</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,111</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>6,723</b>	<b>26,388</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,111</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank account	28,578	26,388
	cash	64	-
		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>28,642</b>	<b>26,388</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name
Chris Welch	Chris Welch

**CC16a**



**Last year**

**to the nearest £**

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**Endowment funds  
to nearest £**

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OK

**Endowment funds  
to nearest £**

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**Current value  
(optional)**

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**Current value  
(optional)**

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**When due  
(optional)**


**Date of approval**




Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name

On accounts for the year ended

Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

1 to 10 (delete the words in the brackets if not used)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

30/12/22

Name:

E. CROWTHER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

MAAT

Address:

9 NEWHALL CLOSE
CRIGGLESTONE
WAKEFIELD WF4 3PH

**FRIENDS OF CLARENCE HOLMFIELD AND THORNES (CHAT) PARKS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166255

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# Accounts

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# FRIENDS OF CHaT PARKS.

(Reg. Charity no: 1166255 )

## Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting

27th May 2021 at 7.00 pm. By Zoom.

### 1) Present 22 members

Ian welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining in this unusual way, by Zoom.

Ian advised that we had lost two of our members since the last meeting, Jo Brown and Allen Robinson had both been very active volunteers and will be greatly missed. We will remember them.

**2) Apologies:** Received from Margaret Dodd, Margaret Morgan, Janet Deighton, Merewyn Sayers, John O'Hara, Mary Roche, Joe Brandi, Keith Hant, Anne Grimshaw, Geoffrey Wood, Christine Sharman

**3) Minutes of the 11th AGM** of February 2020 were circulated and accepted as a correct record. There were no matters arising

### 4) Chairman's Report:

Ian said that this last year had been a very difficult one, with many things having to be cancelled, but we had managed to keep some things going.

The number of people using the Park has significantly increased as people have realised the value of green and open spaces.

We have had many complimentary comments about the work of volunteers, particularly in the Secret Garden and the Aviary. It is gratifying to see that their hard work is being recognised.

The Council has allocated nearly a million pounds to carry out improvements to the Park. The three areas selected under the project are:

The Lake

The Amphitheatre

The Children's Play Area

A working group has been established to draw up suitable schemes and it is hoped that work will start on the sites next year.

Looking forward, Ian was pleased to see that summer may have come at last. We intend to open the golf and putting this weekend for the Bank Holiday and school half-term. We still need volunteers to manage the ticket office.

It is likely that most events will be cancelled for this year as well, but the Fireworks are planned to go ahead in November and the Music Collective hope to stage the Clarence Music Festival.

Ian reiterated to all members the need for volunteers to plan and carry out projects in the Park and for members to join the Committee of Trustees to manage the work of the Group.

### 5) Finance Report

Copies of the financial report for the year had been circulated to members. Brian Else, our Treasurer, highlighted some of the key facts, especially the lack of income this year because of cancellation of virtually all our money-raising events.

Brian's report was agreed unanimously and Ian thanked Brian for his work keeping our finances in order.

Mrs Crowther, who examines our accounts, was thanked for her work and Brian recommended that we ask Mrs Crowther to do the same for the current year's accounts. This was agreed and it was agreed to make a donation of £50 to Mrs Crowther.

Brian informed the meeting that our bank, along with many others, is going to reduce the level of “counter service” available to customers and is working towards all transactions being on-line or by machine (ATMs)

## **6) Retirement and election of Trustees:**

In order to comply with our Constitution one third of the Trustees are required to stand down each year. They may then stand for re-election.

Margaret Morgan, Jean Reeve and Peter Stokes had accordingly agreed to stand down, and all three were subsequently re-elected unanimously.

The other Trustees are;

Ian Deighton  
Brian Else  
Miriam Hawkins  
Margaret Dodd  
Merewyn Sayers  
Chris Welch

Ian pointed out that we can have more than the current nine member trustees and he asked members to consider volunteering to be Committee members and Trustees.

## **6) Any Other Business**

Brenda Ashurst raised the issue of rats in several places round the Park. It was agreed that we ask StreetScene to investigate further action to reduce their numbers. She also asked if more litter bins can be provided, especially near the lake. Ian referred to the proposed work around the lake and said that litter bins and seats were part of the project. He stressed that it is important to spend some time designing the project to make sure we get the best scheme. This was supported by Hilary Mitchell. This will be the only chance to improve things so we must get it right. Water quality and suitability for wildlife will be key aspects of the work.

Ruth McCallum asked about the time-scale for the children’s play area. Ian confirmed that a consultation exercise will start shortly and it is hoped that the improved area will be available next spring. Once again, it is important to get the design right. The scheme must ensure that it is accessible for a wide range of abilities.

On a question of anti-social behaviour in the Park, Hilary Mitchell said that, at a recent PACT meeting the police had asked people to make sure they reported all incidents to them.

Kate Honeyman advised that the Clarence Music Festival is planned for 14th and 15th August this year.

Jean Reeve, manager of the Group’s website and facebook account said that there is a great deal of interest shown on both platforms. At the last count we had over 2,000 followers on facebook. Most of the messages and posts are complimentary about the Park and the work of volunteers in various areas. She feels that the social media make a valuable contribution to the work of keeping people informed about what is happening in the Park. Ian thanked Jean for all her work in making sure our social media profile is valid and up-to-date.

Mention was made of the recent news that we should be getting a Park Ranger. Ian said that little detail is known as yet about the proposal to take on several Rangers across the District.

Chris Welch reminded the meeting of the tremendous time and effort which our Chairman puts in to support the Group and the Park. We all owe him a debt of gratitude. This was supported unanimously.