

PMH Annual General Meeting Friday 12 June 2020: minutes

The Trustees invited interested people, and especially Patcham residents, to a Zoom AGM, a virtual meeting. The notice was published on Friday 27 May 2020, in accordance with the 2012 constitution for the Hall. We invited previous AGM participants and people from significant organisations working for the benefit of Patcham to this virtual AGM. This course of action was in line with advice from the Charity Commission, during this unprecedented national situation. The full committee had responded to the request for approval. The agenda was to read the Chair's Report, the Treasurer's report, and endorse the approval of the accounts for the financial year January to December 2019, which had already been approved by the Trustees. One email query and one postal endorsement from Patcham residents were received by the required date and time. There was no dissent to the accounts being endorsed. Consequently they will be submitted to the Charity Commission along with the Annual Return, on or before the deadline of 31st October 2020. No 'other business' items were submitted by members of the public or the committee, for consideration and response.

Discussion and future plans for 2020.

1. Hall bookings having been suspended by law in March 2020, the Charity devised a Covid-19 Strategy, as recommended by NCVO. It includes a regular revision of finance and a forecast for the remainder of the financial year Jan-Dec 2020, given that the income stream has been cut off, and monthly outgoings are still in place. The Covid 19 Strategy will form the basis of the Annual Report for 2020, following revised guidelines for charities published by HMRC.
2. It was intended to 'launch' the revamped Wildlife Garden at the AGM, and to receive feedback about it, as its plan was approved at the previous AGM 2019. We can record that passing members of the public have been complimentary about the design when in (suitably physically-distanced) conversation with committee members and the gardener who have been working there over the spring months, as the garden has come into growth. Some questions about the provenance of the flowering turf and its purpose have been answered by the Garden Committee (GC): it is hoped that interest will be continued as the year progresses. The plan will be reviewed by the GC once a full four seasons is passed, so that decisions about elements of it can be made when we are fully informed of its impact. To date we have noticed an increase in insect life visiting the flowering plants, including a wider variety than just the resident solitary bees. As this has taken place over the months of the Covid-19 Lockdown, increased opportunities for pollinating insects to roam more freely might well be influenced by the reduction in traffic and associated fumes and noise. It would be useful to compare anecdotal evidence from this year with a wildlife audit next year, to gauge how much the garden has contributed to biodiversity - we will take advice from the Plantlife charity, or similar local wildlife organisations.
3. PMH were recipients of the 2019 Aviva Crowdfunding initiative, as mentioned in the Chair's report, thanks to financial support from people involved with PMH. We received the funds in April 2020, for an energy feasibility study to install an Air-Source Heating Pump system, to replace the gas heating system. We have commissioned this at the time of writing (June 2020) and await results prior to carrying out the second part of the work, namely to employ a consultant to raise

funding for the installation. We are aware that a government grant is available to support ASHP installation, this has to be applied for prior to March 2021 - we will look into the conditions around any postponement of the deadline date, due to the Covid 19 crisis.

4. It is noted that the installation of an internet service might enhance booking terms for some groups, depending on how long the government restrictions on groups of people meeting in person might last. For example, a group that meets regularly with a speaker might be interested in broadcasting its meetings through a zoom-like platform, to people not able to attend because of shielding etc. The committee will investigate costs and practicalities.

5. Usually there would be a minimum of three Trustees' meetings annually, and the AGM. The Covid-19 crisis led to an increase in the number of virtual meetings, via Zoom and email equivalents, to devise and consult on the management of the Hall. We will meet on a regular basis, to progress the ASHP and other maintenance issues for the hall's benefit, and monitor the situation regarding Covid-19 restrictions. Residents of Patcham who wish to raise issues can contact the committee through the main email address pmhpatcham@gmail.com