

Friends of Holywells Park AGM Minutes 04.09.25

Apologies received from Liz, George, Faye and David

Present – Robin, Yvonne, Andy, Mary, Sarah, Richard, Martin, Nick

1. Agreement of the agenda – agreed
 - 1.1 Except for incorrect spelling of Yvonne's surname the minutes to the AGM 05.09.24 were signed off as an accurate record.
2. Chair's report – See appendix 1 In addition the Chair would like it noted that Martin, Robin and David have completed their First Aid training and in addition so has Helen from the volunteer group.
3. Secretary's report – See appendix 2
4. Treasurer's report – see appendix 3

Honey sales were significantly down due to a poor harvest of honey.
Many thanks to Yvonne for her hard work during the past year.
It was noted that there had not been any donation from sale of Duck Food. Yvonne would enquire about this.

 - 4.1 Accounts for 2024 were fully adopted
5. Resignation of the committee – the committee all resigned and Nick Wilcox took over the running of the meeting. He thanked everyone for their hard work over the previous year, for continuing to bring new people into the park and supporting the work of IBC.
Nick explained that there were procedures to follow to arrange for the two youths, who vandalised the Orchard, before they could meet the committee or carry out any volunteer work. Mary expressed concern that the committee had not been communicated with.
6. Election of key committee members
 - 6.1 Chair – Robin Gape proposed by Sarah and seconded by Yvonne . Robin Gape was elected as the Chair for 2025-26.
 - 6.2 Secretary – Liz Harsant was proposed by Mary and seconded by Martin. Liz Harsant was elected as the Secretary for 2025-26.
 - 6.3 Treasurer – Yvonne Westley was proposed by Robin and seconded by Sarah. Yvonne Westley was elected as the Treasurer for 2025-26.
 - 6.4 Other committee members were elected as follows – Mary Patten, Sarah Turner, George Lankester, David Vincent, Faye Harburt, Martin Cant, Richard Bloomfield, Andy Smuk. There is one vacancy on the committee.
7. Appointment of auditors – Mary and Sarah were appointed to be completed during Spring 2026
8. Resolutions – none
9. Meeting closed at 19:29

Friends of Holywells Park: Reports to the 2025 AGM

Friends of Holywells Park: Chair's Report for 2024-25

The Friends of Holywells Park (FoHP) have had a rather more eventful 2024-2025 session than we might have wished. We ran Orchard events—hosted picnics if you like—in Spring & Summer 2025, building on similar events in 2024. Then, as always, Apple Day 2024 was another successful event. FoHP also ran some other events in the Orchard.

Over 2024-25 we supported Suffolk's Unforgettable Garden Story, part of Suffolk Gardens Trust in their bid to have Holywells Park included on the *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*. Their team put in a lot of hard work. In the end, however, Historic England decided that our park did not have enough retained heritage for inclusion on the national register. As I noted when informed: "This is disappointing, but the decision seems to have been driven by the demolition of the house in the 1960's, and the loss of the formal gardens over time, plus the blow-by-blow loss of historic features such as the gatehouses."

In November, Holywells Park was awarded the Ipswich Society's inaugural *John Norman Award of Distinction*. The Ipswich society gave the award to the premier project from the past quarter century. Out of some 25 outstanding local projects the 2015 Holywells Park Restoration Project was chosen. The project was funded largely by the National Lottery, through the then Heritage Lottery Fund, with further substantial contributions from Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) and considerable volunteer labour largely mediated through FoHP. That project was very successful and transformed Holywells Park considerably, particularly in respect of the otherwise appallingly treated Stable Block and Conservatory (known as the Orangery for marketing purposes.) I am proud both of the restoration project team all those years ago and of the 2025 award from the Ipswich Society.

Earlier this year, some vandals attacked the FoHP shed in The Orchard. We think that there were four, possibly more, separate incidents. The first incident was shocking, and the subsequent ones were very disheartening. However, the community at large, the FoHP committee, the volunteers of the Wednesday Work Party, and various other folk, came together to support one another. We rallied round. The likely culprits, thanks to good observation and the support of Suffolk Constabulary, have been identified and chastised.

Meanwhile, the shed is being restored by the FoHP team with community support, and funds as noted by Liz overleaf. The vandals had also torched the composting toilet, put in as part of the 2015 Restoration Project. IBC is hoping to be able to restore that facility in the fullness of time.

Many thanks to the FoHP committee, the various FoHP volunteers, the Stable Block Café, and everyone, named in this short note or otherwise, who has supported FoHP's efforts over the past year.

Robin Gape (Chair of The Friends of Holywells Park, 2024-2025)

Friends of Holywells Park: Secretary's Report for 2024-25

After the terrible destruction of our Shed in the Orchard, Liz was very pleased to be able to support its rebuilding through her Suffolk County Council Locality Budget.

Sadly, we lost our dear friend Lewis Platten, who had been part of Holywells Park all his life and a great supporter of the Friends Group. Our thoughts are with Mary and the family at this difficult time.

Liz is also an Honorary Member of Holywells Bowls Club, which is very much part of the Park. She was delighted to attend their 50th Anniversary celebrations a few weeks ago, and the Club is keen to welcome new members.

Finally, a big thank you to Bishop's Café for their continued support throughout the year – it is greatly appreciated.

Appendix 3

Friends of Holywells Park AGM 2025

Financial Statement

Monies in Bank @ 31.08.24	4253.56
Monies in Bank @ 31.08.25	4543.40
Petty Cash (120.45-68.73)	51.72
Total	4595.12

Income and Expenditure 01.09.2024-31.08.2025

Income		Expenditure	
Membership	518.00	Apple Day	278.68
Honey	2145.89	Blossom Event	82.40
Apple Day	516.90	Open orchard	45.65
Blossom Event	142.93	Wood etc for shed	898.44
Open Orchards	111.44	Stable bl. Bench TG	300.00
Donations	107.32	Maze Bench TG	1200.00
Donations IWG	122.25	Maze Bench Metal	633.60
Cliff Lane school event	45.00	PL Ins	229.32
PL Ins Re-imb IBC	229.32	Stationery etc.	131.47
Bank Interest	68.39	Gas Bay insp.	80.00
		First Aid	39.88
Locality Budget Grant	1717.00	Gas bottles	72.00
(Councillor Liz Harsant)		Web hosting	60.00
		Honey jars	137.41
Total	5724.44	Bee insurance	53.20
		Apiguard	29.85
		Bee glove wax	14.29
		Plaque etc SB bench	38.99
		Corrugated cups	28.83
		Mtg refreshments	9.90
		Newsletter printing	6.50
		Xmas quiz prize	4.50
		Wassail bells	6.90
		Drill charger	14.99
		Bee feed	93.60
		Timber Orangery bch	8.30
		Craft items	12.99
		Honey sieve	18.99
		BBQ Thank you	46.00
		BBQ drinks	63.04
		Acrylic paints	19.98
		Flowers	20.00
		Sundries	15.64
		Keys	23.00
		Orchard sundries before vandalism	70.07
		Orchard sundries after vandalism.	191.96
		Vol refreshments	176.19
		Vol. lunches from cafe re Shed rebuild	278.04
Totals	5724.44		5434.60

$$4253.56 + 5724.44 - 5434.60 = 4543.40 + 51.72 = 4595.12$$