

Friends of Battersea Park

Registered Charity 802905

friendsofbatterseapark.org

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Annual General Meeting 2024

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Battersea Park held on Tuesday 8th October 6.30pm for 7pm - 8.30pm All Saints Church, 100 Prince of Wales Drive SW11 4BD

1. **Welcome: Chairman's opening remarks** - Adrian Flook, Treasurer, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. He explained that Garon Watkins had resigned as Chairman on 31 March having moved out of London. From 1 April, Kate Bock had been acting Chair and was standing for election. He was chairing the AGM as much of it related to the 2023/24 financial year and included the election of a new Chairman.
2. Adrian thanked Neil Blackley, Head of Parks at Enable Leisure & Culture and Inspector Steve Biggs of the Parks Police Service who would join the Open Forum following the formal business.
2. **Apologies for absence were noted**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 12th September 2023*** - The minutes had been made available on the Friends' website prior to the meeting. They were approved by all present.
4. **Trustees' Report for 2023/24*** - Adrian Flook delivered the Trustees' Report for the year ending March 2024 on behalf of the Committee. He noted a year of continued community activity, restoration efforts (particularly in the Winter Garden), and growing involvement in education and advocacy on behalf of the Park and its users. **The report** (also published in Issue 128 of *Review*) **was approved by all present.**
5. **Presentation of the Financial Statement for 2023/24 by the Treasurer*** - As Treasurer, Adrian Flook presented the annual accounts. Key points included:
 - A modest surplus was reported, in part due to ongoing spending on projects including educational work and planting.
 - The Friends' bank balance remains healthy, exceeding £80,000.
 - Advertising income in *Review* remained strong, with special thanks to Sally Orman.
 - The accounts were examined by George Coe, who conducted the examination remotely from New York using digital collaboration methods.**The accounts were approved by all present.**
6. **Election of Independent Examiner for 2024/25** - George Coe was unanimously re-elected as the Independent Financial Examiner for the 2024/25 accounts.

7. **Retirement of trustees** Adrian confirmed the retirement of Garon Watkins (Chair) and Julia Camara (Trustee), offering thanks on behalf of the Committee and membership for their service.
8. **Election of new Chairman - Kate Bock** was proposed as the new Chair of the Friends of Battersea Park for a three-year term. Proposed by Hallam Murray, seconded by Frances Radcliffe, and unanimously elected by those present.

Election of new Committee member - Martin Graham was proposed as a new Trustee. Martin introduced himself to the meeting and was elected unanimously.

9. **Any other Business** - No further items were raised.

Closing the AGM

The formal business of the Annual General Meeting was declared closed. The meeting then broke for refreshments, after which the Open Forum was chaired by newly elected Chair man, Kate Bock, joined by representatives from Enable and the Parks Police Service.

** these documents can be read on the Friends of Battersea Park website.*

Meeting closed at approx. 8.30pm