

**FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 22nd January 2018**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Andria Johns FoHPC Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and then summarised the format of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Sheila Dilks, Phil Dilks, Brian Pinder, Tina O'Halloran

3. GUEST SPEAKER

Lynsey Slater – KOYLI – Stories from the First World War.
Lynsey told the fascinating history of the KOYLI and also stories of some of the personnel whom served during WW1.

4. Secretary's REPORT (2017)

Read by Helen Slade and attached below.

5 TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Statements were circulated at the beginning of the meeting and are attached hereto. A signed and bound copy examined by our accountants was available.

Margaret noted that extra money had been paid this last year for the railings insurance.

6 COMMITTEE 2018

The positions for 2018 are as follows:

Chair – Andria Johns

Vice Chair – Andy Harbon

Treasurer – Margaret Bark

Secretary – Helen Slade

Committee Members – Richard Bell, Lynsey Slater, Ruth Brompton

HS stated that Phill and Sheila Dilks have stood down from the committee though Phil Dilks would be volunteering for events throughout the year.

7 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2018

Ashworth Bailey Limited, Chartered Accountants.

Action - APPROVED

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND QUESTIONS

AJ thanked everyone for attending the meeting

MEETING CLOSED

Secretary Report (Jan 2018)

Once again Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery have had an amazingly successful year with 2017 being a very busy and productive time for the committee and volunteers.

We began this exciting year by entering the cemetery into the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. When we looked in detail at the competition's aims and objectives, we realised that open spaces such as Hyde Park Cemetery are what the competition is all about.

Having considered the matter in some detail, the Friends decided to enter, with judging taking place on the 17th July. In the intervening months, work was done to the cemetery to help enhance our chances of a good outcome.

After the judging and a few weeks of waiting, we were delighted to find out that we had been awarded a Silver Medal!

The judges reported that the Victorian era cemetery retained a unique charm and value in the area. They reported that they thought the group were extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the site and this shone through in their work.

The judges also commented that regarding restoration, the friends were sensible in doing small projects at a time. They were happy to see and hear about the engagement with the National Citizens Service, and the Tree Trail was a nice touch, plus there was useful interpretation for wildlife. It was also encouraging to see efforts in place to create a wildflower meadow'.

Along with the feedback the judges also gave the friends advice on areas we should look at in the future to help further enhance the cemetery.

On behalf of the friends I would like to thank all the volunteers and committee members that helped prepare the cemetery for the judging and also to Doncaster Council for their continued support. A special thank you to Richard Bell who met the judges on the day and also orchestrated and entered the friends into the competition in the first place.

The Memorial Meadow at Hyde Park Cemetery acts as a natural memorial for the thousands of people who were buried there in unmarked Public graves. They were the people who often had no close family and who found themselves, for example, in the Workhouse at the end of their life. The Friends established the Memorial Meadow in the area of Public graves in Sections H & I, in particular. However, there are eight more Public grave areas in the cemetery, too.

In February the Council grounds maintenance team cut down and cleared away the growth from the year before, ready for a new season's growth to begin in the spring. The Memorial Meadow is a space that the friends once again are eager to develop and are pursuing projects this coming year to help achieve this.

One of our aims is to get more local organisations involved in the cemetery.

The NCS project once again contacted us to ask if their youngsters could volunteer to help maintain the grounds.

In August a group of enthusiastic volunteers set upon tidying up the cemetery and restoring four large shrub beds which were very badly overgrown. With the generous help of Stonecrop Nurseries more plants were added. A big thank you goes to Stonecrop and also to the NCS organisation whom have been great supporters of us over the last few years.

While we have hosted groups of volunteers from the National Citizen Service over the past few summers, this year was the first time that a group came to help us at Hyde Park Cemetery in the Autumn.

The youngsters, all students at Club Doncaster's Sports College, spent two days in late October tackling another of the neglected shrub beds. Not only did they complete that, but they also tidied the gardens near the main entrance and behind the cross of sacrifice, too. We are extremely grateful to them for all the hard work that they put in. The result is wonderful.

Having the NCS involved in the cemetery is essential to raise awareness of the cemetery and its history to the younger generation and in time hopefully these experiences will help to secure the future and history of the site.

In July we were delighted to be contacted from the XP School in relation to our connection with the railways. The school were currently planning a learning expedition for their New Year 7 students, looking at what makes a successful community. The Guiding Question being "What does Doncaster's community owe to the Railways?" Their leading teacher had done some research and found out that Patrick Stirling was buried in Hyde Park Cemetery, along with several other railway workers of that time. The school wondered if we had any further information that they could use as part of their case studies into the development of railways in Doncaster, particularly around where and how they lived.

The friends were delighted to help them with their enquiry and two guided walk relating to the railways were created and led by committee member Andria. The walks were well received and many questions were asked in relation to the history of Doncaster and the impact of the Railways to the town. The XP school have since contacted the friends to express an interest in maintaining links with the cemetery and this is something the friends will be looking at throughout this coming year.

The past few years the friends have held many successful guided walks throughout the year and 2017 was especially special as we had the most attendees and also were able to include some new themes.

One of these was entitled "Sporting Stars". Visitors to the cemetery heard about athletes, footballers, tennis players and others, all of whom had achieved great things in their chosen sport. Several of these people unfortunately lie in unmarked graves. However, the family of one subject, Rovers footballer Arthur Pyle, had recently ordered a monument for the previously unmarked grave. This monument was in place in time for the walk and so many family members of Arthur's came to the cemetery to see where he was buried. Through the research that our volunteers do, we were able to tell them more about Arthur than they previously knew especially about his sporting career.

2018 will again be a busy year regarding guided walks, especially due to it being an important year in women's rights and also the penultimate year of the Great War. As ever these successful events could not take place without the help of our volunteers either by doing research or by leading walks on the day.

One satisfying element on being involved with the cemetery is when families contact us to find a relative and subsequently visit their grave or as in Arthur's case, have a grave marked.

Our offer of a Grave Finder Service can help relatives find their loved ones and in early in 2017 we were contacted by a Dr Gell, who was brought up in Doncaster but is a long-term resident of Italy. He was trying to locate the final resting place of Gilbert and Mary Holden. As a result of that initial contact with the Friends, Dr Gell went on to sponsor the restoration of the grave in question. Much of the restoration was undertaken by our colleagues at the Victoria Cross Trust and we were delighted when Dr Gell and his wife visited from Italy to see the work done.

Grave restoration projects are important to the friends as it is just one of the ways the Friends can help conserve and improve the historic Cemetery.

Another grave we were happy to see restored was that of Corporal Booth. Three years ago we discovered that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone of William Booth had been broken. It had cracked at ground level and lay flat on its back on the grass. After we reported it to CWGC, it was only a couple of weeks before they came along and made a temporary repair. They ordered a brand new headstone from their manufacturing facility in France and we were delighted that in September, the new headstone was delivered and erected, providing a fitting memorial once again for a brave soldier of WW1.

One of our main focuses this past year was to have the grave of Alice and William Pickering restored following our successful project to restore the graves of famous railway locomotive engineer, Patrick Stirling and two of his sons.

William Henry Pickering and his wife, Alice Mabel, were both very prominent Doncaster residents in the early 20th century. William was His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Mines and was killed in the Cadeby pit disaster of July 1912. His widow went on to carry out a wide range of public service duties, including running the

Arnold Auxiliary Hospital, where soldiers who were injured in the Great War recuperated.

Through the support of the public by donations to this project, we were able to begin this work late in the year. Stone Revival and the Victoria_Cross Trust began restoring the grave and I am pleased to say that the work is now nearly completed.

Earlier this year we were pleased to have a special bin called a superbins installed in the Cemetery. This bin enables people to gain access to equipment at any time so then they can do tasks such as litter picking without having to wait until the work mornings. Work mornings though do play an important role in the maintenance of the cemetery. Our work mornings are held every month, whatever the weather and volunteers can do a variety of tasks such as litter picking, shrub cutting and grave tidying. The friends are keen on getting more people involved in this activity as much more could be achieved with more hands available!

One very visible improvement to the cemetery over the last couple of years was made to the lodge. Adrian Welch acquired the building in 2014 and began lovingly restoring the grade II listed building. Early in 2017 the lodge was finally occupied and the new tenants are a great asset to the cemetery. As you can see Adrian has done a wonderful job to the building and we thank Adrian and his team for their continued support to the friends.

Earlier in the year the Friends were able to install more new railings in the New Street boundary, thanks to further generous support from benefactors. Following on from the installation of eight bays of new railings last December, we were given an additional private donation to allow three more bays to be completed. The donation also allowed us to have the pedestrian gates at New Street re-coated in black, to match the new railings.

Next to where these bays have been fitted, another project will be developing at the beginning of this year.

We are delighted to announce that we were successful in securing an environment grant from Greggs_Foundation, The funding will be used to create a 'Wildlife Corner' in the south-western extremity of the cemetery. This area is currently an overgrown and untidy embankment slope, with much low value vegetation growing on it. The site is about 35 metres long and varies in width from about 2 metres to 5 metres, as it slopes down to the New Street footpath.

Through the grant, the low value vegetation will be removed, but existing wildlife-friendly plants will be retained. The latter will be supplement by planting about 200 new shrubs of various species. The work will be carried out by volunteers under the supervision of The Conservation_Volunteers (TCV). We expect work to begin on our proposed Wildlife Corner in early February with the project transforming the south western extremity of the cemetery. On behalf of the friends I would like to thank Lynsey Slater for helping us to obtain funding for this project.

Coinciding with this project we were delighted to welcome local RSPB members to the cemetery. They have kindly agreed to carry out a bird survey before and after the creation of our Wildlife Corner so it will be interesting to see over time what the impact this development will have for the wildlife in the cemetery. After their visit it was great to hear that they saw a flock of 30 Redwings at the cemetery which are classed as red status meaning this species is in need of urgent action.

To know that this bird is in the cemetery now just shows us what an important wildlife haven this is.

In 2017 the friends continued to be actively involved in local events held throughout the year such as the Family History Fair. Events like this play an important role as our volunteers are able to speak to the public regarding our aims and vision for the future and to promote all aspects of the organisation.

Once again this past year has been a very full and positive time for the cemetery.

One of the aims this year is to recruit more volunteers and committee members. It is though wonderful to see how much has been accomplished with the members we have and again I am personally proud to be a member of a dedicated team.

I would like to finish by saying a huge thank you to all the committee and volunteers and to also the many organisations whom without their support, many of these objectives in 2017 would not have been achieved.

FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK CEMETERY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2017**

These financial statements have been prepared solely for the benefit of the members of the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery and are not intended to be used for any other purpose. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and are subject to audit by the auditors.

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Anthony Blevins
Chairman

17th January 2018
303 Racommon Road
Barnley
YO7 1BN

Accountant's Report to Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

for the year ended 31st March 2017

In accordance with your instructions we have examined the books and records and other information supplied by you and using these we have prepared the financial statements set out on pages 2 to 4.

Our examination does not constitute an audit and we therefore do not express any opinions with regard to these financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared solely for your benefit and in accordance with your instructions and to the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than you for the work performed in relation to these financial statements.

12th January 2018
20a Racecommon Road
Barnsley
S70 1BH

Ashworth Bailey Limited
Chartered Accountants

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31st March 2017

Unrestricted Funds

	2017	2016
Income		
Donations		
Flowers	100	
General	<u>456</u>	
	556	469
Events		
Talks	150	
DDHA and DDFHS fairs	<u>24</u>	
	174	292
Fairyhouse wood sculpture	-	25
Walks	232	71
Gravefinder	<u>200</u>	<u>370</u>
	1,162	1,227
Expenditure		
Meeting expenses – speaker	-	37
Memberships		
Club 39	21	
DDHA	10	
NFCF	20	
TCV	<u>38</u>	
	89	68
Insurance	181	109
General office expenses	9	96
Hospitality and refreshments	25	42
Web hosting	-	58
Web redesign	200	-
Stand at fair	21	16
Repairs – garden tools	69	7
Plants and wildflower seed	100	363
Flowers	35	35
Yorkshire in Bloom entry fee	40	-
Tree Trail woodcarving and plaque	-	102
DMBC Helping Hands grant overspend	-	4
Donation	25	20
Paypal fees	10	42
Accountancy	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
	<u>864</u>	<u>1,059</u>
Income over Expenditure	<u>298</u>	<u>168</u>

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery
Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31st March 2017

Restricted Funds

	2017	2016
Income		
Donations		
New Street railings	6,500	5,000
DMBC Helping Hands Grant	-	379
Stirling Graves Restoration Appeal	<u>-</u>	<u>799</u>
	6,500	6,178
Expenditure		
New Street railings planning application	195	25
Thorndell Engineering – New Street railings	9,120	-
DMBC Helping Hands Grant	-	379
Stirling Graves Restoration Appeal – C A Marlor	<u>-</u>	<u>1,620</u>
	<u>9,315</u>	<u>2,024</u>
Income over Expenditure	<u>(2,815)</u>	<u>4,154</u>

Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery

Balance Sheet

31st March 2017

	2017	2016
Current assets		
Cash at bank	5,761	8,278
Current liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
Net current assets	<u>5,701</u>	<u>8,218</u>
Represented by		
Accumulated Restricted Funds	4,321	7,136
Accumulated Unrestricted Funds	<u>1,380</u>	<u>1,082</u>
	<u>5,701</u>	<u>8,218</u>