

Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall AGM, Wednesday 20 July 2011
The Baptist Church, Fisher's Lane, Cherry Hinton

MINUTES

36 people were in attendance at the Baptist Church, Cherry Hinton. Apologies were received from Sue Reverchon, Mark Ashton and Barbara Gordon.

1. Welcome / introduction

Bob Daines welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes and matters arising

- 24 July 2010 AGM
- 18 May 2011 Ordinary Meeting

The minutes were agreed, and there were no matters arising.

3. Recap on Membership Renewal Options

Sandra Day ran through the new membership options for 2011 and beyond –

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| Annual membership (Single / Family) | £2.00 |
| Five-year membership (Single / Family) | £10.00 |
| Lifetime membership (Single / Family) | £25.00 |

The longer options should cut down on administration. New membership cards are being printed by Cambridge Cartridge World in Cherry Hinton Road, who are supporting us with help for printing by providing ink cartridges and supplying printed cards free of charge. Thank you to Cambridge Cartridge World for the help.

4. Election of Committee for 2011/12

The following were elected to serve as Committee members for the next 12 months:

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| ▪ Chair | Bob Daines |
| ▪ Secretary | Stuart Newbold |
| ▪ Treasurer | Ian Simmons |
| ▪ Historical Officer | Michelle Bullivant |
| ▪ Publicity & Events Officer | Sandra Day |
| ▪ Membership Secretary | Sandra Day |
| ▪ Website Editor | Ian Simmons |
| ▪ General Committee | David Taylor |
| ▪ General Committee | Judy Webb |
| ▪ General Committee | Mark Ashton |

Bob Daines mentioned that being on the committee does entail a certain time commitment, but people tend to find it quite rewarding. Having additional committee

members has been a great help, and if anyone would be interested in joining during the next 12 months they would be very welcome.

5. John Collins, Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook

The Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook is roughly the same age as the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall, having celebrated their 2nd anniversary on 1st June. However, John got involved with early members some time before after seeing a notice advertising a litter-pick on a lamppost. The organisation of the group was started by *RiverCare* (<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/Programmes/RiversAndCanals/RiverCare/default.asp>) a community engagement project backed by Keep Britain Tidy. Funding was provided by Anglian Water, (<http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/our-projects/rivercare/>), partners to the *RiverCare* project.

The brook forms part of a 'green corridor' running through East Pit to Giant's Grave, and along the brook to Sainsbury, over to East Barnwell Nature Reserve, and across Coldham's Common to the river Cam.

Having litter-picks has become extremely popular. The group have big waders for people to get into the brook and pull things out (even a motorbike and a chest of drawers). Picks are twice-yearly, outside the bird-nesting season, in February and November. The Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook also get good support from the City Council's Streetscene team, who quickly collect the items removed from the brook, to ensure they don't go straight back in!

Sainsbury has a planning application to expand their store site which might cause problems to the watercourse. The Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook do try to work with Sainsbury in tackling issues such as debris and junk. There has been some difficulty re-establishing the public right of way through the top of Sainsbury's car park, currently blocked by boards and padlocked at the Coldham's Lane end.

Over the last 18 months, the Friends have been working on some interpretation boards with Guy Belcher, Cambridge City Council Conservation officer. These should be in place soon. The council also put in three toad kerbs last winter. The Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook have also produced a number of newsletters, including seven in the last year, dealing with wildlife and other issues. They also meet regularly and try to include a guest speaker – Simon Bunn, Sustainable Drainage Engineer from the City Council attended the last meeting.

The website is www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk. Details of how to join etc are included.

Discussion points

The water flow of the brook is blocked in four places by the pond in the Hall grounds as the result of dams being introduced. This needs addressing including establishing a better flow around the island. There was a question as to whether Giant's Grave was part of Cherry Hinton Brook and that the Friends gave this their attention. John thought it was logical to include it. It was also suggested that both Friends groups could assume responsibility.

Overall, those present thought there was significant scope for joint working / synergy between the two groups. It was agreed that both websites should reference and link through to the other.

6. Master Plan delivery and maintenance issues

Bob Daines said that he gone along to the 29th June Scrutiny meeting and addressed the committee before the City Farm vote and spoke of the problems that accommodating a Farm would bring, in particular not being able to deliver the master plan in its intended form, not having the propagation centre opened up to park use, and trying to fit the Folk Festival in somewhere too. When the vote was taken, it was unanimous in rejecting Cherry Hinton Hall as a site for a Cambridge City Farm.

Bob also said he was looking forward to seeing the master plan delivered, and Alistair Wilson from the City Council told everyone that *“The master plan will come back to the next Scrutiny Committee for a project appraisal. In the meantime we’ll do a grant application for Heritage Lottery funding. Some elements such as the purchase of new equipment can happen relatively quickly, including the new gate after the Folk Festival. Some larger elements are over the permitted financial threshold and we will have to draw up tender documents, so the larger works will be done in the summer of 2012.”*

In suggesting confidence that the Friends will be involved with the master plan delivery, Executive Councillor Rod Cantrill summed up proceedings by stating *“I realise the Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall are a committed group and I am keen for us to work in partnership with you to deliver this scheme.”*

As soon as the Folk Festival is over, the Friends will begin the process of liaising with City Council Officers with the aim of delivering as much of the master plan as possible whilst also ensuring the Folk Festival is accommodated.

Lenora Jameson mentioned that it is only in the last two or three years that the Folk Festival has been able to utilise as much of the propagation centre as they now do. For instance, until recently the children’s area was always in front of the Hall. The master plan is for fifty two weeks/year; the Folk Festival is for one.

Members wished to comment on the master plan, e.g. making the wildlife areas more attractive. Bob said we would do this in the next few meetings going forward.

7. Plans for 2011 Cambridge Folk Festival Stall

Sandra outlined details of the stall, which will be in the same place as 2010 – on the approach to the wristband check area (we had 90 people join at the stall last time). Volunteers are needed for Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Entry wrist bands will be provided. A rota was circulated, and additional volunteers would be sought by email.

8. Future Meetings and Events

Sandra updated members on forthcoming activities. The RSPB has been invited to the January meeting. Laura Watson from the Wildlife Trust has agreed to talk at the next year’s AGM, including organising a walk around East Pit Nature Reserve afterwards to spot glow worms. We have also organised a bat walk to coincide with the Cherry Hinton Festival week. This will take place on Monday, 12 September.

Ian Simmons mentioned the Photograph Competition. Photos may be of anything, or anyone, in the park. Anyone can enter up to 5 photos, and children are particularly encouraged to take part as a holiday activity. There are cash prizes for three age groups: under age 12 (junior); ages 12 to 17 (intermediate) and 18 and over (adult). In each group the prizes are: first £25; second £15; and third £10. The best photos - not just the winning ones - will be printed and put on public display at the Community Groups Fair on Saturday, 15 October. Details of how to take part (including upload of photographs using *Flickr*) are on the website.

Michelle Bullivant recommended Peter Carter, the eel catcher, as a speaker. There is also a list of Cambridgeshire speakers online.

- Bat Walk
 - Monday, 12 September
- Community Groups Fair
 - 1.00-5.00 pm, Saturday, 15 October. Includes prizes being awarded for the Photograph Competition

9. AOB

Shelia Manton mentioned the recent spate of trees succumbing to subsidence and falling over across the brook and the Daws Lane path running alongside the Hall grounds. As the trees grow, more and more will end up falling over as their roots cannot support them as they are very close to the edge of the brook. Please could we arrange for planting to take place just *inside* the fence? This would mean a new set of hawthorn etc could grow up with sufficient space to grow roots and provide cover for the when the trees in front of them fall.

10. Close & Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 21 September, at 7.30 pm, at the Baptist Church Centre, Fisher's Lane, Cherry Hinton. As ever: *Please bring along a raffle prize!*