

Minutes of AGM of The Bushey Festival Association held on Monday 25th November 2019 at 7pm
at the Bushey Youth & Community Centre, Falconer Road, Bushey.

1. Present:

Committee members

Steve Francis
Frances Francis
Frank Newman
Katie O'Grady
Taiye Sanwo
Liz Collins
Suzie Humphreys
Alan Guthrie-Jones
Cllr Harry Mortimer
Diana Brown

Friends

Joan Lewis
Hugh Lewis
Madeleine McCormack
John McCormack
Anthony Wildig
Wendy Skeldon
Graham Skeldon
Margaret Craig-Gray
Philip Manhire

Apologies:

Judith Campion	Roger Prangnell	Morag Kane
Thomas Boyd	Philip Nowlan	Chris Kane
Mrs Boyd	Michelle Nowlan	W. Cocks
Patrick Forsyth	Valerie Turner	Christine Cocks
Mrs Forsyth	Eric Kershaw	Roger Stuart
Jim Craig-Gray	Valerie Kershaw	Jenny Stuart
Mary Wait	Valerie Popplewell	Frances Mulford-Lawler
Carey Keates	Shirley Keates	

The chair, **SF** welcomed everyone to the meeting and showed first part of two photo-presentation, explaining that first part would hopefully trigger questions about what we have achieved and where we are heading. Presentation at end would reflect the year's activities and memories of the finale day in the Park, in story form. Friends were asked to think of what is needed in the next chapter. **SF** gave thanks to BYCC for use of Hall and to Bushey Museum for use of projector and screen. The floor was happy to adopt the Report. **SF** mentioned that, sadly, Gerry Dingley had died.

2. Minutes of AGM 2018: Had been circulated on email, some copies handed out. Approved by Madeleine McC, seconded by Diana B and signed by **SF**.

3. Matters Arising: The long standing issue of Christmas Lights was raised by Margaret C-G. **SF** referred to the state of stalemate with Hertsmere. Their donation was still available and a new attempt to overcome a reluctance to find a solution might be triggered if sufficient community groups could come together to lobby the council. This was a reference to a Festival led initiative to setup a community website.

Margaret C-G said Christmas Tree in front of St James's Church was very good. Power from church.

4. Chair's Report: **SF:** Suggested that we had put the Festival 'back on the map' and succeeded in attracting a wider audience from all sections of the community, especially to Day in the Park. Year 2 had been a huge success. We know because of comments made in person, posted on-line and from the survey. The committee had responded to comments following the 2018 Festival by reinstating the pamphlet distribution which had proved successful. The finale event was well managed and supported by volunteers. Comments on Social Media had been excellent. Most important, neighbours of King George Park were grateful for help with car parking and avoiding the public blocking their drives. He expressed appreciation for the Friends and thanked Committee and all helpers. **SF** referred to the invaluable support of the Friends and that we would be working on some kind of tangible "reward" for their loyalty as in previous years, despite the changing nature of the programme which made discounted tickets possible. Joan Lewis said Friends were rewarded by having Festival.

5. Treasurer's Report: attached. Copies had been emailed and were also available to view. Approved by floor.

Re. funding, small profit made in 2019. The aim for 2020 was to at least break-even without reliance on a Lottery Award. **SF** stressed our role in community development/cohesion by involving and engaging more people. Talked about new "Community Hub" website, which would encourage sharing event information, dates and resources.

Unfortunately, the funding application to LNWR had failed - as too many applicants. We would make other applications and approach Councillors to pledge their support.

LC explained the areas where cost savings could be made and more money generated – contact tenders, stall holder fees, advertising and "bucket" donations etc.

SF paid tribute to **LC** for her event planning initiatives such as the Music Crawl and Par 3 Café Music Club which were having a positive impact for local musicians and businesses as well as raising funds for the Festival.

6. Appointment of Ind Examiner: Kevin O'Malley was appointed and has checked Accounts ex gratia. Adopted.

7. Election of Committee: Existing members plus 3 (see list above) offered themselves for re-election. Approved en bloc by show of hands. Welcome to new members: Alan Guthrie-Jones and Diana Brown and to Harry Mortimer, new Council Rep. A vote of thanks was given to Pete Rutledge who stepped down this year.

8. Any Other Business: Margaret C-G asked about format of Festival 2020. **LC** already has Day in Park planned. Will launch with Music Crawl on 25th January 2020. **FN** has more Alpaca Walks planned. **SF** stressed Community Hub.

9. Presentation of pictures from Festival 2019. Very enjoyable. Hugh Lewis gave a vote of thanks to the committee for all their work which was gratefully received.

10. Meeting closed at 8pm.