

**Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2 July 2025
The Look Out Centre, 18.00 – 20.00**

Present (trustees): Sue Price Chair (SP), Joanna Clark (JC), Simon Cox (SC), Lynden Easton (LE), Will Gray (WG), Tina Higginson (TH), Christina Shiatis (CS)

In attendance: Photographer, Friends member Richard Chow

The Royal Parks: Jason Taylor, Manager HP, Pat Kelly, Deputy Manager KG, Dave Jordon , Dep Manager, Beth Handley , Head Gardener HP, Russell Stevens, Head Gardener KG, Ryan Gill , Princess Diana Playground manager KG, and many other representatives of staff from both Parks.

Metropolitan Police: Police Officer Vinny Kinsler

Many other welcome guests including Mayor, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, MPs Kensington and Bayswater, Westminster, as well as several councillors from wards surrounding both parks.

1. Welcome

SP welcomed all trustees , official guests , staff from TRP and the Learning Centre . She also welcomed the many members of FHPKG.

Apologies had been received from several members and from Andrew Scattergood and Andy Williams.

2. Introductions

Speakers

- Graham Alderton : A brief history of the site of The Lookout.
- Jason Taylor : A report on the Year in Hyde Park
- Pat Kelly : A report from Kensington Gardens (Apologies for absence from manager Andy Williams)
- Met Police Officer Vinny Kinsler : A report on the progress of planning for the imminent departure of the dedicated police service from all the Royal Parks including both Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

3. Approval of Trustees Report and Accounts :

SP commenced by thanking all Trustees for their hard work during the year. Mention was made of the many events and plant sales held throughout the year.

Financial Statement: SP noted that the 2024 annual accounts , which are available on the Friends website , had been approved and signed at the last trustees meeting and are now being approved , presented to and received by the AGM . She noted that the Trustee (CS) who produced the accounts was available for answering any questions at the end of the meeting .

4. Appointment of a new trustee

Having confirmed her willingness to be appointed as a Trustee , the appointment of Patricia Ladkin was proposed and seconded and she was duly elected.

5. Re-election of retiring Trustees on a three year rotation :

Tina Higginson, Lynden Easton, Christina Shiatis and Will Gray having all retired as trustees by rotation in accordance with the constitution , their re-election was proposed and seconded and they were all duly elected.

6. Any other business.

There being no other business the formal part of the meeting was concluded .

Presentations and Reception

There followed presentations by Jason Taylor, Pat Kelly and police officer Vinny Kinsler. Following a brief Q&A session the meeting was completed with a reception on the terrace.

Simon Cox
02/07/25

Sue Price
20/08/25