

**Friends of Teignmouth Cemetery**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**Held at**  
**Teignmouth Rugby Club**  
**On**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm by welcoming all those present

**Present**

Neil Howell (Chairman)

Martin Fry (Treasurer)

Kay Large

Jean Gitsham

Marti Howell (Secretary)

**Also present (open minutes)**

20 others were present. Names are recorded in the closed minutes, to comply with GDPR

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from 12 others. Names are recorded in the closed minutes, to comply with GDPR

**Chairman's Report**

Please follow the link for the Chairman's report in its entirety:

[Chairman's Report](#)

**Treasurer's Report**

The Balance sheet shows £520.89 as surplus income over expenditure but more income will be needed to move us forward. The main source of Income is from Membership but revenue has also come from Grants and Donations. Thanks were given to Teignmouth Town Council for an initial grant.

The biggest individual expenditure is on Insurance (inc Public Liability), but other expenditure has been on tools and equipment, planting (which is important for improving aesthetics of the graves), and visits to other cemeteries (the expenditure for this was approved by the committee).

The surplus shown in the accounts shall be taken forward from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Finally, the Treasurer thanked the auditor for giving his service free of charge.

The End-of-Year Accounts are posted on the website for members to view:

## End-of-Year Accounts

### **Election of Committee**

The Chairman stepped down but is happy to stand again

Neil Howell - Proposed by Jean Gitsham, Seconded by Harriet Fry. Carried

The Treasurer Martin Fry stood down. The FOTC thanked him very much for all his work in setting up the accounts and for his stewardship of the finances for the past year.

Kay Large was Proposed by Marti Howell and Seconded by Wendy Thomas. Carried

Jean Gitsham was Proposed by Dot Matthews and Seconded by Selena Bass. Carried

Marti Howell was Proposed by Jean Gitsham and Seconded by Kay Large. Carried

Jackie Bunce has decided to stand down. The Chairman thanked her for her contribution over the past year.

Wendy Thomas was Proposed by Dave Tovey and Seconded by Selena Bass. Carried

Jacqui Orme was proposed by Wendy Thomas and Seconded by Martin Fry. Carried.

This nomination, however, is subject to there being no conflict of interest given Jacqui's status as a Town Councillor

### **The Future**

The FOTC committee feel that we do not have the resources to take on the restoration work of the buildings and this can only change with the help of professional people who understand what restoration involves. We have informed Teignbridge District Council of this. However, from our visits to other cemeteries we have seen that it is possible to turn cemeteries into self-sustaining organisations. What these cemeteries have in common is that they are run by independent Charitable Trusts and the lease to run them has been handed over by the local Council.

If we were to try and form a charitable trust we would need other agencies to join forces with us and for us to attract Trustees with legal, building and accounting skills.

At a recent meeting with Teignbridge District Council we asked hypothetically IF a Trust was formed would they be prepared to hand it over the old cemetery so that it becomes an asset for Teignmouth (not Teignbridge). This would include handing over the budget. We are waiting for a response but are not expecting an answer soon. However, if TDC agreed in principle, we would need to form a properly constituted Trust.

If TDC respond negatively, there is nothing we can do. However, if they respond positively the members agreed to take the necessary steps to pursue the idea of a Charitable Trust.

A question from members concerned the War Graves. Neil confirmed that we have yet to approach TDC about the war graves (in the old cemetery) but we would

expect to take on the contract for their care if TDC handed the budget over. The war graves are a major concern of the members and the FOTC committee take this seriously.

In response to a question from the floor, the Chairman confirmed that the cemetery is not registered as an Asset of Community Value. This is because the buildings are boarded up and currently cannot be used (Catch 22).

Ideas for the use of the buildings if they were restored could include Humanist Weddings and Funerals and the hiring out of rooms for concerts and events.

The Chairman confirmed that the buildings are not listed.

The Chairman also confirmed that he has been invited to give a couple of talks to other community groups about the History of and some of the occupants of the cemetery and the work of FOTC volunteers in the cemetery. The fee paid is included in the Income column of the accounts.

There was no Any Other Business and the meeting closed at 20:15