

Friends of Hell Wath

Minutes of AGM

Thursday 23rd January 2025

	Item	Notes	Actions & By Whom
1	Attendee & apologies (including guests and non-committee members)	<p>Member Attendees: Jem Dunford, Katie Scott, Carol Leo, Tony Leo, Paul Du Rocher, Rita Du Rocher, Matthew Adamson, Jane Horton, Dawn Madeley, Duncan Lees. Karyn Lees, John Pearse</p> <p>Non-Member Attendees: Alex Macey, Sylvia Lyon, Michael Exley, Tim Flanagan, Jamie Prescott,</p> <p>Apologies: Gabby Crisp, David Barnstaple, Giles Manners, Cllr Andrew Williams, Simon Hewitt, Jan Allen Smith, Rod Allen Smith,</p>	N/A
2.	Thanks.	The Chair noted thanks to Carol Leo, Matthew Adamson, John Pearse and Jem Dunford, members and active volunteers for their contributions. The benefits of the Members Activity Groups to the Trustees in aiding the running of the charity were noted to be significant.	
2	Agree items of AOB to be included in the agenda	None	
3	Election of Trustee	<p>The three vacancies were confirmed and the following nominations noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matthew Adamson 2. John Pearse 3. Jane Horton. <p>All three nominees were elected unanimously.</p>	
4	Annual Report	The annual report was noted and approved unanimously by the members.	
5	Annual Financial Report	<p>The members were advised that the report needed the start date amending to 2023 rather than 2022 as recorded in the copy distributed. This would be changed before submission to the Charities Commission.</p> <p>The AFR was approved unanimously by the members.</p>	

Friends of Hell Wath

		<p>Carol did a further update on the finances to date of this financial year. The income to date is £2151 income Including two grants of £1000. The first was the Ripon City Grant and the second is a grant from Plantlife.</p> <p>Planned imminent expenditure includes a replacement bench near the Dam marker stone and rabbit proof fencing to be sourced as part of the Plantlife project work</p> <p>The Chair noted that the formal required AGM agenda items had now concluded.</p>	
6	Plantlife	<p>Andy (Plantlife) gave a virtual presentation. Unfortunately bandwidth issues meant that this had to be concluded early as the sound was not good enough for all to understand. Andy has offered to share the presentation with his commentary for FOHW to share later.</p> <p>Matthew Adamson offered to speak about the practical elements of the project plans. He explained the rabbit fencing plans were to allow wildflower growth. He confirmed that most of these are perennial plants and so, despite not being allowed to flower because of rabbit grazing, they will still be present on site and can still flourish if protected.</p> <p>He noted end of season grass cutting was still needed in these protected areas to allow new plants to succeed against rough grass. Potential new member experience was shared which if, translated into membership, will be very useful.</p> <p>It was noted that FOHW would have to ensure timely information is shared to ensure community reaction is positive.</p> <p>It was confirmed that rabbit fencing will be dug in. Paul Du Rocher raised how deep the fencing is to be dug in. It was confirmed that soil cover is light and that this had been an issue for plug planting. This will be checked.</p>	

Friends of Hell Wath

7	Archaeology	<p>Jem Dunford shared proposals for a joint FOHW/RHAT series of summer digs on site.</p> <p>It was confirmed that this needed NYC approval. All in attendance were supportive of the idea.</p>	
8	Skell Valley Project Update	<p>Carol read out Gabby Crisp's report. She also noted that this was the final year of the SVP and the final stages for Hell Wath were interpretation panels and a marked trail around the site.</p> <p>The significance to the work of FOHW and SVP contribution to improvements on site as well as the wider project were noted and thanks were noted.</p>	
9	Management Plan Review 2024	<p>This has been delayed because of new initiatives arising from the Plantlife Partnership Project and Tree Surveys being undertaken. This includes a tree survey funded by FOHW through the RCC grant. The intention is to have a draft Plan completed by May 2025.</p> <p>A non member attendee asked about plans for the river in relation to plant/tree growth and erosion. It was noted that NYC policy was to leave fallen trees in situation unless they completely blocked the river. This is so that leaky dams are created. It was noted that both trustees and members are interested in an ecological plan for the river area to be created to help ensure its improvement and more sympathetic human use.</p> <p>John Pearse spoke briefly about the Bat monitoring confirming there are 7 species currently known to fly in and around Hell Wath with almost 30 bats roosting the the bat boxes installed last year.</p> <p>John Pearse updated the meeting on Duke of Edinburgh volunteer support for the bat monitoring and that D of E volunteers, if approached, will be sued in hedgehog monitoring this year.</p>	
10	AOB	None	
11	Date Of Next AGM	Thursday 15 th January 2026, 7pm. Location to e confirmed.	