

**Gorgeous Gorse Hill Annual General Meeting Notes 21st January 2016**

**Attendees:** Sandra Aguilera, Stacey Body, Tim Body, Mike Cordingley, Yasmin Green, Maggie Joan Haggas, Ruth Hannan (Chair), Waqar Hashmi, Marje Kelly, Ita Kirrane, Mary Patel, Paula Pearson, Susan Savage, Jennie Wadsworth, Nicola Ward, Janet Wright.

Apologies: Caroline Daly, Lisa McCauley, Rebecca Pass, Venessa S., Mandy Tomkinson.

Welcome, and thanks to Tesco for providing refreshments.

1. **Summary of activities during 2015**

* Bug Hotel Built in Nansen Park
* Roller Shutters Decorated
* Burleigh Gardens Wildflower Planting
* Snowdrops Planted
* Avondale Planters installed & Planted
* Ravenswood Rest Space
* Toilet Block Decorated
* Guerrilla Sunflower Planting
* Tree Pit Planting – with Styles & Wood volunteers
* Dig the City Show Garden – GGH won Silver Gilt
* Loads of planting, weeding & more planting
* Dancer Bollards Installed
* Mosaic Bollards installed – over 30 volunteers participated, including passersby!
* Railway Rd Bollards installed
* 4500 bulbs planted
* Giant Plant Pots Arrive and planted with Cherry trees
* Planter at Toilet Block installed

Over 30 activities took place; 9 meetings and a conservative estimate of 1050 volunteering hours contributed!

1. **Finance**

Income: £10,055.16

Expenditure: £7,081.45

Balance at 31/12/15: £2,973.71

Together Mutual: Start of 2015: £20740

Balance 31/12/15: £1286

MP raised an appeal for people to help with funding applications, or to notify the group should they become aware of anything relevant.

1. **Elections**

The following people were re-elected to posts on the GGH committee:

General committee member: Sandra Aguilera, Jennie Wadsworth

Treasurer: Mary Patel

Secretary: Nic Ward

Chair: Ruth Hannan

The third general committee member post, currently held by Lisa McCauley, to be voted upon on 29th February 2016.

1. **Plans for 2016**

* Ravenswood Rest Space will have art installed, bird boxes, benches and more planting. VS is designing artwork to be installed on the ground, and will present her work at the next GGH meeting. Manchester Airport fund have donated £1800 towards benches. Aiming for RRS to be good for residents and nature.
* Further planting at Burleigh & Avondale
* Bollards decorated at Ravenswood by CD & along cycle routes in Gorse Hill
* A National Garden Scheme Open Gardens Day to Showcase GGH. Clearly Gorse Hill is not a garden, but the NGS liked the project.
* Funding Bid in for Canal Bridge Rest Space, as part of the Tesco and Groundwork Pocket Parks scheme; GGH is through to the next round.
* Installing signage at key sites
* Planting lavender in the toilet block planter

1. **Awards**

* Silver Gilt at Dig the City
* Manchester Evening News Environment Award for Best Community in 2014
* Nominated for Manchester Be Proud Award
* Nominated for Inspirational Community Award by Forever Manchester; winners announced 05/02/16.

1. **Thanks**

We would like to thank:

* All our volunteers
* Our local councillors especially Laurence Walsh & Mike Cordingley
* All our donors big and small

**Date of Next Art Day: 10am – 1pm on Saturday 30th January, Gorse Hill Studios, Burleigh Rd, Gorse Hill, Stretford. Decorating bird boxes and tyres to become planters. Come along anytime!**

**Date of Next Planting Day: 10am – 12pm on Saturday 13th February, Burleigh Gardens, Chester Rd.**

**Date of Next Project Meeting: 7pm on Monday 29th February, at the Stretford Leisure Centre Community Room, Talbot Rd Site.**