



## Friends Roles – Chair

The Chair provides leadership for the Friends committee, sets the agenda for meetings and manages meetings in line with the agenda.

The Chair should ensure that issues are properly debated and an agreement is reached. Some committee members will be better at expressing themselves than others; it is important that the Chair welcomes contributions from all members of the committee so that everyone feels involved.

New members of the committee may feel awkward at first. The Chair should welcome all new members, introduce them to the other members and encourage them to play an active part in the discussions at committee meetings.

Occasionally, personality clashes may arise. The Chair should remain impartial, call the meeting to order without upsetting the parties involved, and make sure that the committee's decisions are not hindered in any way.

The Chair needs to work closely with the Treasurer and Secretary to ensure that the Friends is run effectively. As a committee officer, the Chair is often one of the people to sign cheques on behalf of the Friends, normally along with either the Treasurer or Secretary.

Key responsibilities:

- provide leadership
- sign the approved minutes of the last meeting
- set the agenda for meetings
- get to know members of the committee
- call the meeting to order when it is time
- agree a date for the next meeting
- welcome and involve new members
- close the meeting
- ask for apologies for absence
- write the Annual Report in cooperation with the Secretary
- follow the agenda and manage the meeting
- sign cheques for the Friends with one other committee member