

Friends of Pittville Trustee Meeting 12 January 2021 at 6.15pm (on Zoom)

Contributors Trustees: Judie Hodsdon (JH), Paul Benfield (PB), Chris Archibald (CA), Andy Hopkins (AH), Philippa Howell (PH), Robert Hyatt Williams (RHW), Janina Kay (JK), Sandy Marshall (SM), Sally Thomas (ST), Henry Williams (HW)

Minutes: Jocelyn Potter

1 Welcome

JH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Dennis Parsons.

3 Minutes of the trustee meeting, 17 November 2020

JH thanked SM for circulating these and other useful references before the meeting. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

4 Matters arising (from the previous two meetings)

4.1 Information boards Replacing these (two of which are particularly dilapidated) will be a procurement exercise. JH will discuss the work with CA and RHW, and will then get quotes. Since Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) helped with costs last time, they may do so again.

Action: JH, CA, RHW

4.2 Meeting with police JK is waiting for a response from the police officer that she is liaising with.

4.3 Domain name transfer With the help of Fiona Clarke, the domain name has been transferred to 34SP.com. Since FoP is a charity, there will be no costs.

4.4 Cedar tree The tree has been saved, and CA reported that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) will fund repairs to the affected houses.

4.5 Video This possible project is on hold, awaiting a volunteer to take it forward.

4.6 Severn Trent works at Pittville Gates JH reported that Severn Trent have made two more unsatisfactory attempts to repair the paving around the hydrant cover. Mike Beamish, who laid the original paving, has volunteered his services, but Severn Trent must pay for the materials. JH is pursuing this.

Action: JH

5 Finance report

JH thanked PB for the report and accounts that he circulated before the meeting. PB reported that despite falls in income (no November parking revenue, a fall in membership levels), there has been little expenditure and the resources available to FoP are very healthy.

It was agreed that when there is a more immediate reason for having a contactless payment device (which can link to an app on multiple phones), PB should obtain one from Barclays, FoP's bank and the cheapest provider overall. It will be useful for – for example – car park

transactions, the plant sale and new membership payments. AH suggested that two devices would be needed, to speed up transactions, and CA agreed.

CA will ask Mike Evans whether FoP's donation to the cedar tree fund is still needed (and whether any surplus in the fund will in any case be donated to FoP), and will tell JH and PB. PB needs an invoice from CBC for the cost of planting in Bed 38, even though FoP's contribution is a donation. CA will send PB the email addresses of Adam Reynolds and Chris Chavasse so that PB can pursue this.

Action: PB, CA

6 Membership

JK will circulate – initially to JH, PB and ST – a proposal for more proactive recruiting, to include a separate database of non-members (individuals and companies) who could be sent newsletters and invited to join. JH agreed that this database would need to be separate for data protection. JK said that the option of contactless payment will be very useful (and would have been helpful at the summer concerts in the park). She is chasing up people who haven't renewed their membership.

Action: JK

7 Trustee terms

JH referred to her email of 4 January, suggesting that terms be lengthened since new trustees are not coming forward. Agreement to the change to allow two terms of four years (so eight years in total) was unanimous, and members needn't be consulted as it is a change to the Rules and not the Constitution. The Rule now needs to be changed on the memory stick and website. Current terms are extended by a year. JH and DR's terms will also be extended by a year, since their original terms were ended and restarted. CA will stand down for a year, but will be able to remain as GSV organiser and to attend meetings, but without a vote.

ST said that a strategy was needed to find new trustees. JH recommended word of mouth. JK suggested talking to newsletter deliverers, some of whom have asked what more they can do. AH said that specific roles should be offered to interest new people. It was agreed that there would continue to be mentions in newsletters, but that a campaign would wait until the times allowed projects to be taken forward.

8 March newsletter

AH suggested a theme of spring/hope/release for the newsletter, and invited suggestions for contributions.

CA will send AH a contact for the Cheltenham Bird Club, which may be participating in the RSPB's annual bird count or doing their own.

CA also reported that Urban Greening (with matched funding from the EU) will start this month – planting marginal plants for wildlife, reinforcing banks etc – and that some of the conservation work would be done in the park (the residuum, the bank by the waterfall on the lower lake), and that there has been seeding of wildflower areas. Reports on these initiatives could be included in the newsletter.

AH suggested an update on repairs to the bandstand; CA will ask Malcolm Walls.

JH suggested a review of the year, and what has been done in the park despite lockdowns. CA suggested an article on how the park can contribute to Cheltenham's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 (following CBC's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019); an example would be Ubico switching from diesel to electric vehicles. Max Wilkinson, who is holding a

consultation on the subject, could be asked for a contribution; CA will forward an email from him to AH.

JH suggested that a wider distribution could be planned for the June newsletter, since that won't be possible in March. Members could still be emailed, but hard copies could be distributed to others.

Action: AH, CA and all other trustees

9 Projects

9.1 Masterplan JH has had no reply from Adam Reynolds about another meeting. She reported that Laurie Bell (The Cheltenham Trust CEO) is supportive of improvements around the Pump Room. The next step will be to work up planning permission and listed building consent applications. There has been planting in the rockery, but otherwise progress is necessarily slow.

9.2 Bed 38 Planting has been done, and JH will talk to CA about adding snowdrops.

Action: JH

10 Regular activities

10.1 Green Space Volunteers (GSV) CA reported that work is on hold, but that there is a lot to do.

10.2 Pittville History Works (PHW) SM reported that work has continued, and she will circulate the most recent minutes.

Action: SM

10.3 Duck food dispenser PH is checking the feeder every couple of days, and filling it.

10.4 Drop-ins These are on hold.

11 Future events

11.1 Online quiz This was suggested by JH, but not taken up. SM suggested an online talk instead – publicising the upcoming talk organised by the Wilson, but also talking to John Simpson about the talk that he would have given at the AGM. ST will propose a talk relating the work of the Vale Wildlife Hospital to the park.

Action: SM, ST

11.2 Plant sale This will go ahead if possible.

12 AOB

12.1 Pump Room leaflet CA reported that Fiona Clarke has produced stickers with QR codes for the leaflet, and he will attach them to information boards.

Action: CA

12.2 SM as an authorised signatory PB reported on problems with setting this up. He is continuing to try.

Action: PB

12.3 Questionnaire ST will raise this at the next meeting, with a view to taking it forward.

Action: ST

13 Date of next meeting Tuesday 13 April at 6.15. (Subsequent meetings will be on 8 June – the strategy meeting – 13 July and 12 October.)

The meeting ended at 7.40.