



Minutes of Friends of Pittville Annual General Meeting, 19 October 2015, at 6.30pm

Abbreviations used: CBC = Cheltenham Borough Council; FOP = Friends of Pittville; HLF = Heritage Lottery Fund

Trustees present:

Hon Chairman Judy Langhorn (JL)
Hon Secretary Fiona Clarke (FC)
Hon Treasurer Wendy Acres (WA)
Chris Archibald (CA)
Graham Gage (GG)
Judie Hodsdon (JH)
Anthea Millier (AM)
David Richards (DR)
Hilary Simpson (HS)

1. Welcome and Constitution amendment

The Hon Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. She explained that tonight the meeting will be conducted using the new constitution approved on 2 September but before the meeting itself, an extra clause is to be added. All members have been notified about this. (Refer Appendix 1)

The need for the clause was not known when the previous meeting was held, and she apologised on behalf of FOP. There is a quorum tonight and she hopes that this clause will be adopted.

The reason is that there is no other way to apply for further grants from Gloucestershire Environmental Trust unless FOP enrolls as an Environmental Body with ENTRUST and this instruction has to be inserted to protect public money.

It will be added to clause 6 Dissolution part (3) as (d) and it will say: "however any remaining Landfill Communities Fund money shall be transferred to any enrolled Environmental Body, and not to an organisation of similar objects and status." All other monies belonging to FOP on dissolution would be as in clause 6 (3) (b) and go to an organisation similar to FOP.

Clause 6 (4) (a) to (c) now reads clause 6 (4) (a) to (d).

There were no questions and the addition and amendment to clause 6 were passed unanimously by the fifty-eight members present.

2. Apologies

FOP Members: Ann Adelman, Jean Aucutt, Steven Blake, Maureen and Nick Edwards, Frances Gabriel, Les and Pam Godwin, JD Hardman, Jillian Herbert, Dulcie Herrington, Michael King, Jillian Lunn, Sandy Marshall, Ali and Bob Mayes, Vibeke Nair, Mark Penfold, Gerald Seal, Ken and Lois Thomas.

Pittville Ward Councillor Adam Lillywhite.

Fifty eight FOP members and approximately ten interested members of the public were present.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM (21 October 2014)

The minutes for last year's AGM had been posted on the website throughout the year and were available on request from the Secretary prior to tonight's meeting. No queries had been brought to the Hon. Secretary's notice and, as none were raised, the minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Proposed by Douglas Ogle and seconded by Chris Archibald.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's report

The Chairman spoke briefly to her written report which was distributed on the seats. (Refer Appendix 2).

Her remarks were as follows: "As members will have noted, FOP has been even busier than usual. I leave you to read about it at your leisure, but would just like to say how much we enjoyed *living* the official Pittville Gates opening day which had been but a *dream* for so long. The final customary retention fee for the ironworkers of approximately £1,000 is now due for payment to the contractor by CBC. FOP shall then reimburse CBC from the Gift Aid scheme's claim for 2015. This will show up on next year's accounts and emphasises how valuable gift aided donations are in yielding an extra bonus.

CBC is putting a scheme to the Planning Department this month for a new children's playground and have asked us to try and raise further cash for landscaping. I emphasise this is a CBC managed project, not a FOP steered project, so is not like the Gates restoration. We do wish, though, to have the best possible sympathetic outcome for our heritage Grade 2 listed park, so FOP has been represented in discussions. The playground scheme is very ambitious".

Douglas Ogle asked about the current painting of the gates and railings on the entrance gates by Pittville Pump Room being carried out by FOP volunteers. He wondered what had happened to the plans and planning permission to replace these which had been granted several years ago.

JL said that this work was being undertaken for CBC's Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation submission in January 2016. FOP does have the Pump Room entrance gates plans but the planning permission has lapsed. It had always been in FOP's mind to replace these, but Pittville Gates took priority as they were crumbling and there was a risk they would be demolished. The Pump Room gates are being smartened up for now, but FOP is hopeful in the future that new gates would be installed.

5. Treasurer's report

JL then called upon the Hon Treasurer Wendy Acres to present the financial report for the twelve months ended 30 September 2015. (Refer Appendix 3). The accounts have been checked by Joe Mar.

The Balance Sheet shows £986.09 in the two bank accounts as £959.34 in the 'General' fund and £26.75 in the 'Gates' fund.

General income is up this year because of grants, two fund raising events and an increase in membership. The net figure for fund raising is £215.79 which is less than actually raised because £223.68 has been invested in Christmas cards which will go into next, and possibly future, year's income.

General expenditure is also up. There was no sponsorship for the printed newsletter this year; there was additional printing and postage for the September Special General Meeting; and to publicise events to those not on e-mail. There was an additional payment to the webmaster to recreate the website when it went down (due to the hosting company changing

its security settings and not notifying FOP). The 'Active Together' and 'Community Pride' grants have been fully spent.

On the Gates project, income was from grants, donations and gift aid reimbursement and the larger payment was to CBC for the new ironwork.

There were several questions: clarifying the abbreviation 'HLF' (Heritage Lottery Fund); clarifying 'Active Together' (a grant from the county council via the Division Councillor to encourage people to be more physically; FOP's grant covered additional tools and equipment for volunteers and a leaflet to recruit more volunteers, especially from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds); what the gambling licence was for (required by CBC when FOP held a raffle to raise funds for Pittville Gates); and the apparently small return on investment for events fundraising (£162.75, which was 50% of the Quiz Night income, went to the Gates fund and, as noted earlier, £223.68 has been invested in Christmas cards, on which there will be a good return).

It was proposed by Rob Rimell and seconded by David Richards that the accounts be accepted.

JL thanked WA very much for her contribution as Treasurer and again, FOP member Joe Mar, for independently examining the accounts.

7. Election of officers and committee

The Chairman reminded members that the new constitution changed the title of all the committee members, who are now to be known as trustees. The accompanying FOP Rules also changed the status of the present co-opted committee members, Cllrs Dave Prince and Adam Lillywhite, plus Desmond Fitzgerald representing Park Watch. They are no longer voting trustees, unless they choose to stand for election, but are non-voting representatives of other bodies (like associate members) who are welcome to attend any committee meeting and will receive the agenda and minutes and share relevant information. We hope that we shall continue to work closely with them.

Cllr Dave Prince was a founder of FOP, along with Cllr Diane Hibbert and Desmond Fitzgerald, in 2006, and all have served the committee well over the years. Diane was a member of the Gates sub-committee until she left public office and her and Dave's support and advice was invaluable. Desmond has a fund of knowledge of the park's recent history and his informal Park Watch members are the eyes and ears of Pittville Park. Cllr Adam Lillywhite has been a great supporter of FOP, generous in hosting both Gates receptions and is an active ward councillor for Pittville.

JL noted that, as before, all current trustees must resign at the AGM. Those not seeking re-election are Anthea Millier and Graham Gage. Anthea Millier has been on the committee for three years and served on the Pittville Gates sub-committee. She applied her artistic talents to the HLF activities for young children and older students, and with all the heritage board designs. Graham Gage was co-opted for several months and then served two years on the committee. He took responsibility for the 'Active Together' grant application and with the money granted bought, and currently stores, the tools. He also produced the volunteers' flyer. He is interested in the new playground development and will remain a volunteer in the park and a member of the History Works team. Both were thanked.

JL went on to say "Also, this is my last day on committee. I was a founder member of FOP in 2006 and chairman since January 2010 and have a hand in most things. I want to thank all the committee, both present and past, for their support. We rarely mention individuals in our reports but I must thank, in particular, Fiona Clarke as without her inspiration and work ethic I would not have considered taking the chair when FOP was about to fold. We have worked well together and I am so pleased I did take the challenge. I recommend this level of community work as an excellent work-out for the brain cells providing lots of new interests. The FOP committee has developed a steady optimistic and co-operative approach to achievement. Thank you all, plus thank you members, for your support. It would appear at this point I should stand down and quietly walk away but, according to the constitution, I continue to conduct the AGM, which I will now do.

Those who have been proposed and have agreed to stand for re-election are Chris Archibald, Wendy Acres, Fiona Clarke, Judie Hodsdon, David Richards, and Hilary Simpson.

Gloria Jones, who relieved me of the Membership Secretary position in May 2105, seeks election. And we are delighted to have three new candidates who have been proposed and have accepted to stand for election: Rob Rimell, who is one of the Green Space volunteers; Sandy Marshall who has lived in Pittville for many years (but was unable to attend this evening); and Mike Evans, who has more recently settled in Pittville.

The new constitution says the three officers shall be chosen amongst the committee so for election purposes we just elect ten candidates for twelve places with no competition among them.”

JL suggested that a bloc vote be taken. This was agreed and it was proposed by Susie Panniker and seconded by Dennis Parsons. JL then declared the ten candidates were now trustees of Friends of Pittville and will meet to choose the officers. Members will be informed in due course.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

9. Date of next Annual General Meeting

The date of the next AGM will be in the second half of October 2016.

10. Guest speaker: Dr James Hodsdon

JL welcomed James Hodsdon who most would know as the author of the Pittville Gates booklet, but he is known for many other historical works, and has been drawn to research the subject of this talk - Robert Stokes.

11. Round up comments – and presentation to outgoing Chairman

JL thanked everyone for coming. But before the meeting ended FOP's first chairman, Tony Mason, presented JL and her husband, Terry Langhorn, with a card and thank you gifts from the outgoing committee. He paid tribute to JL's enthusiasm and commitment, and, as chairman, for her firm guiding hand and willingness to step in at a difficult time. She has been supported by Terry who played a key role with the website, the e-mail system and was the official FOP photographer during the Pittville Gates restoration project.

The official meeting finished at 8.00pm.