

## **Friends of Pittville**

### **Minutes of the Trustees' Meeting held on Tuesday 9 August 2016, at 17.30, at the Municipal Offices**

#### **Present**

Judie Hodsdon (chair), Wendy Acres, Chris Archibald, Gloria Jones, Sandy Marshall, David Richards, Hilary Simpson

Representatives of other bodies: Dennis Parsons

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Fiona Clarke, and representatives of other bodies – Desmond Fitzgerald and Adam Lillywhite.

#### **2. Resignations**

2.1 Resignations had been received from Mike Evans (1 July 2016) and Rob Rimell (7 July 2016). JH referred the meeting to her email of 13 July in which the reasons were given for these resignations.

2.2 Jennie Coasby, a regular of the drop-ins, has expressed an interest in joining the group and had been invited to attend the meeting. Unfortunately a family emergency had prevented her attendance. She has been invited to attend the next meeting.

#### **3. Minutes of the last meeting, 28 June 2016**

The Minutes had been circulated on 4 July 2016. They were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

#### **4. Matters arising**

4.1 item 3, 7.3.1 Civic Award plaque: JH is awaiting a response from the conservation team to a query regarding fixing a plaque to a listed structure. It was felt that affixing this at, say eye-height, to one of the piers might be more secure and vandal-proof than fixing it to the side railings (see JH's email and photos of 2 August). **Action: JH**

4.2 item 7 Depot meeting: CA reported:

(i) Disabled Loos Application is in hand. It needs further work to establish design and costings. Date of next meeting: 6 September 2016. **Action: CA**

(ii) Active Together tool storage: Janice Peacey is to provide a purpose-built container to be kept in The Boat house. It will be readily available when The Boathouse is open; at other times, there will be key holders.

4.3 item 9 Chairman's compliment slips are now in use. GJ passed round samples of the new membership card.

An interim FOP flier is now available for use at events and to be left at e.g. the cafés in the park, to be replaced eventually by a glossier, perhaps bi-fold version. JH thanked FC, GJ and HS for their work on these.

Strategy meeting: after an initial meeting convened by Mike Evans, it was decided to proceed with this later in the autumn, after the AGM. The meeting agreed that setting the aims of FOP and how the group is organised and presents itself is a worthwhile concept.

4.4 item 11 Cheltenham Trust and Pittville Pump Room: Discussion focussed on issue of parking at The Pump Room. While the park is council-run, the Pump Room is managed by the Trust and space is limited for helpers, officials etc. when there are special events that coincide with public events centred on the park. CA mentioned the charity-run park at Albemarle Gate which offers some relief. JH noted that any FOP project involving the Pump Room would need involvement of the Trust, even while FOP worked with the council.

4.5 item 14.2 The Cheltenham Plan: JH had circulated an email about a meeting of chairs of communication groups regarding input into town plans. All to forward comments and queries to JH for forward

ding to Gary Stacey of GRCC. **Action: All**

CA will write a short piece setting out FOP's vision on the open space, impact of the houses around it, residents' traffic concerns. **Action: CA**

It was suggested that a broad questionnaire be included in the autumn newsletter. DP noted that detailed questions had been asked of residents last year and doubted the need for a further set, but these new questions would be less specific and asked of non-members, and would provide additional feedback. HS expressed concern that respondees might well be those who know little about Pittville, but JH assured the meeting that there would be opportunity for further discussion at a later date.

4.6 item 14.4 Noticeboards: a couple still to set up: CA chasing JP.

## 5. Financial report

The accounts look quite healthy and figures were circulated at the meeting by WA. They are also enclosed as an additional attachment with these minutes.

JH noted that it must be clear what any fundraising is for. HS thought that priorities needed to be set and that the strategy meeting might produce some recommendations. Some ideas put forward:

Improvements to the lawn area in front of the Pump Room, and the lake – a landscape architect would be needed. CA will arrange a meeting to consider improvements to that end of the park. **Action: CA**

DR would like to see some bulb planting in this area.

On-line teacher resource sheets, similar to those produced by a group in Twickenham. All thought this an idea worth supporting, but noted that on-going costs would be involved,

given curriculum changes which necessitate frequent review and updating of material. Grants might be available. CA is pursuing this.

## **6. Newsletter**

Next issue due mid-late September. Topics for inclusion include:

- Green Flag success
- Opening of play area and aviary update
- History Works update, including Brunswick trip
- East India Café agreement
- Garden Party report
- Possible feature on Albemarle Orchard
- AGM notification
- Feedback on Dragons on the Roof story

SM to find out the cost of printing in colour. Action: SM

The meeting was referred to the ongoing discussion via email relating to inserts and the distribution.

## **7. New play area update**

CA reported that generally all is working well. The turf on the mound needs some attention. Members of the public enquiring why some parts were too challenging had been advised that 'ability limiters' are intentional features of the playground, to encourage children to revisit and achieve more as they grow. The dying pear trees will be replaced.

Aviaries: budgies and finches due to return 10 August, rabbits the following week.

## **8. Green Flag and GHSA update**

CA was given particular thanks for his hard work on this project, with the award achieved in record time. Cuttings and reports from the Echo of 3 August were shown to the meeting.

The plaque is due to be positioned by the Central Cross Café by 12 August. There will be a purpose-built flagpole.

## **9. Pittville History Works**

9.1 The meeting was referred to HS's emailed summary of 9 August. The group could benefit from more volunteers – it is hoped that the future occupants of the student village might become involved.

9.2 Approaches are being made to Prestbury Local History Society with a view to looking at their churchyard records.

## **10. East India Café**

10.1 The proposed arrangement with the EIC for 10% of any bills incurred by FOP members to be paid to FOP had been agreed previously by the trustees. The details, following some

final drafting changes, will now be sent out to the membership. £50 in sponsorship of the September newsletter has been offered by EIC in return for a brief item about the restaurant.

10.2 A meeting will be held in September to arrange a lunch in November. The arrangement will be kept under review.

10.3 If people have mislaid their cards, it should be possible just to have names checked, but GJ noted that by the AGM all members should have their new cards, so the chances of their having lost these should be small.

## **11. Forthcoming events**

11.1 CHS Summer Show 14 August

11.2 FOP Garden Party, also 14 August. JH noted that there was now a waiting list for guests.

11.3 HODS 8-11 September: volunteers still needed for the Saturday afternoon slot. The presence of FOP members to engage visitors is likely to encourage donations. Judy Langhorn is to tempt people to drink the waters, John Simpson will escort visitors upstairs.

11.4 Cheltenham Half Marathon 25 September: volunteers needed to help, e.g. handing drinks to runners. Contact is FOP volunteer John Pickles or Fiona Clarke. **Action: All**

Other events include the November lunch (see item 10), a possible quiz night and another plant sale.

## **12. FOP business card**

GJ would like a more professional card. She will discuss with FC. **Action: GJ**

## **13. Any other business**

13.1 DP raised the topic of involving students from the new village as volunteers (one of the courses is Landscape Architecture). There has already been some liaison with Janice Peacey, but the student liaison officer will also raise this. A FOP presence at Freshers' Fair would be useful.

Other points made were the need for some sort of commitment to turning up (related to the amount of tools available), the benefit to the students in the form of acquired merit and the benefits to the History Group of student involvement.

13.2 CA passed round proposed text to upload to the Green Flag website. Trustees were invited to forward comments to him. CA will ask JP for a badge that could be embedded on the FOP website. **Action: CA**

## **14. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 13 September at 17.30 in the Municipal Offices.

The meeting closed at 19.15.