

Present:

Trustees: Judie Hodsdon (JH), Fiona Clarke (FC), Gloria Jones (GJ)

Philippa Howell (PH), Sandy Marshall (SM), Henry Williams (HW) Janina Kay (JK)

Non-voting representatives: Dennis Parsons (DP), John Payne (JP)

Minutes: Philippa Howell (PH)

1 Apologies and welcome: Paul Benfield (PB), Chris Archibald (CA), Adrian Allen (AA), Andy Hopkins (AH) David Richards (DR) and non-voting representative Jo Stafford (JS)

JH advised that Adrian Allen was standing down as a Trustee but would continue for the time being, to manage the website and Facebook.

JH welcomed Janina Kay as a new Trustee noting that she will need to be formally elected at the AGM.

2 Minutes of last meeting, 26 March 2019

These were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Pittville Gates bench and follow up to Cabinet Member. JH advised that the bench should have had Listed Building Consent, if not Planning Consent. She was disappointed that she had received no response from the Cabinet Member for the Green and Clean Environment, Chris Coleman, or Karen Watson. Agreed no further action.

3.2 Tommy Taylors Lane Footpath Adam Reynolds (AR) had agreed that this was CBC's responsibility and money had been allocated for repairs, but GCC did work to one third of the path before he could take the job forward. DP advised that it was not considered bad enough for immediate action but that CBC monitored it every two months. HW will continue to monitor the surface.

Action: HW

3.3 Damage caused by vehicles As well as Ubico vehicles some delivery trucks to the Boathouse and Kiosk cafes are driving over the grass. DP will investigate. JK suggested there might be bylaws to cover this but DP said bylaws are not clear within CBC.

Action: DP

16.1 Fallen poplar near underpass CBC will remove it, either by taking it to the other side of the park or chipping it. DP will chase and FC will email Chris Chavasse at CBC.

Action: DP/FC

16.3 Albemarle Gate Cedar JP had received a report that attempts were being made to preserve the tree with root barriers but that a new tree would be planted. The newly planted tree has been stolen.

4 Finance

Income is above budget during last two months. £8,000 had been transferred to the savings account.

The Plant Sale raised £616.93, an increase of £130.62 on last year. All nurseries except Ireley Nursery took more money than last year. The Treasurer's report was noted.

5 Pittville History Works

PHW meeting notes had been circulated to FoP trustees before this meeting.

SM reported that the four students, doing a project on crime and scandal in Pittville, would be exhibiting their work at Chapel Arts. Thanks go to Hilary and John Simpson for involving them.

6 Pump Room Action Group

Notes circulated with Agenda. Next meeting is Thursday 23 May FC, CA and HW to attend with Hilary Simpson and David Collins.

FC advised that Sarah Staniforth's planned review was now on hold, possibly due to the ongoing renegotiation of the agreement between CBC and Cheltenham Trust. As there is a new Chief Executive there may be changes. The new CEO of the Cheltenham Trust, Laurie Bell, visited to do a mystery shop before she was appointed and was disappointed with some things that she found.

FC advised that while a large number of volunteers had been trained only three Volunteers (all FoP members) were attending regularly. Someone has been tasked to ensure the PR is open for HODs.

Plans for an updated guidebook were in place. FC said the need was for a concise guide.

JP said a planning application had been lodged to replace the ten skylights on the newer part of the Pump Room with triple glazed plastic, and to renew the roof covering. While CBC is responsible for the maintenance of the building, there are inadequate funds.

7. Past events

7.1 Plant Sale, Saturday 4 May

It was agreed the event was a success with many visitors and dry but cold weather. JK enrolled three new members. HW distributed all raffle prizes on the day. HW said the scout hut seemed short of tables this year.

Hoo House Nursery had told DR that they were missing some plant boxes. FC suggested that FoP through DR offer to reimburse them. SM will contact DR.

The date for next year's sale to be decided later.

Action: SM/DR

8 Forthcoming events

8. 1 Drop in, Thursday 30 May

Good attendance but last time, with a lot of people, it was hot in the basement of Havanas, so better if Trustees and members stagger their visits over the two hours.

8.2 Summer volunteers barbecue, Sunday 11 August

JH and HW to revise the draft flyer. Noted some Trustees will be away.

Action JH/HW

8.3 Heritage Open Days, 13-22 September 2019 JH and CA agreed to do joint talks on the rockery and historic landscape on two days, 17 and 18 September. Numbers will be limited to 20 for each and will need to be pre-booked

Action: FC, JH, CA

8.4 Volunteers cake and tea at the Boathouse, Thursday 6 June

To be held during Volunteers Week. CA has told the GSVs. All volunteers need to be invited. To start after working party at 10.30am. GJ and SM to contact CA for more information in order to invite their volunteers.

Action: GJ/SM

9 AGM, Tuesday Thursday 24 October 2019 at Dunalley School.

GJ will visit beforehand to make arrangements.

Trustees FC and GJ will stand down, and AA has resigned, so now three vacancies.

GJ said her membership secretary responsibilities were not onerous except for organising newsletter deliveries four times a year but the deliveries organiser needed access to membership database.

JH suggested we might have non-trustees attending meetings and being responsible for specific jobs, though office holders should be trustees, and that we could reduce the number of meetings from six to four.

JH will send a note to all trustees.

Action: JH/GJ

10 Pittville Park Masterplan and Green Space Volunteers

Work is progressing well on the rockery. Some soil has been removed to reveal more rocks than were at first thought. New planting of greenery and colour will be smaller so that the rocks can be seen.

JH said that the neglected bed and a tree opposite the hotel on Evesham Road would be tidied up. She suggested that the bed could be adopted by FoP with a FoP welcome board. This was agreed to be a good idea to improve the first part of the park to be seen by anyone travelling north along Evesham Road. It could promote FoP's work. JH to discuss with CA. Preliminary plans have been made available for new steps and gateways at the Pump Room but a meeting with the landscape architect is needed to explore further. The work will need a lot of fundraising.

JK said she had been told there were railings in the CBC yard which could be used to infill hedges. Now that depot meetings were no longer being held it was difficult to find out any information from CBC.

Action: JH/CA

11 FoP Newsletter, June 2019

GJ reported the next, members only, newsletter is on schedule. Noted that this year all issues will be colour. Noted that an invitation to join should be included at least once a year.

GJ said members were reluctant to set up Standing Orders. PB had considered a PayPal account. DP said that PayPal took commission.

Action: GJ to contact PB.

12 Any other business

12.1 FC and JH had been getting **spam emails** on their FoP accounts. No other trustees affected.

12.2 DP said a consultation with local residents was likely about closing the **West Approach Drive gates to the Pump Room**. There are continuing concerns about the access being used as a rat run, especially during school drop off time.

12.3 HW asked if **the lakes and residuum would be dredged**, as he understood from CA that it should have been done by this time of the year. He said it was thought a large pike was in the lower lake, which may have been responsible for the demise of three of the new cygnets.

13 Date of next meeting, Tuesday 16 July 2019 at 6.15 pm

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.