

Friends of Pittville Trustee Meeting 19 July 2022 at 5.00pm on Zoom

Present:

Trustees Sally Thomas (ST), Sarah de Buriatte (SdeB), Sandy Marshall (SM), Andy Hopkins (AH), Philippa Howell (PH), Robert Hyatt Williams (RHW), Janina Kay (JK), Henry Williams (HW)

Council representative Julian Tooke (JT)

Guests Bettina Carr Allinson (BCA), Caroline Macklin (CM)

Minutes Jocelyn Potter

1 Apologies

ST welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Chris Archibald (CA), Judie Hodsdon (JH) and Stephan Fifield (SF).

2 Minutes of the last trustees meeting, 5 April 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising

3.1 Prince of Wales Award application This was won by the APE project St Paul's Adventure Playground in Bristol. Applications for 2023 will open soon, for projects that made a difference to the community during the pandemic. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

3.2 Fundraising talk by Oggy Boytchev ST visited the school on 18 July to discuss dates and facilities, and will liaise with Holst Victorian House about dates (in late October or November), marketing and ticketing. The cost will be £50 an hour, but Oggy will offer a free talk for students in lieu of payment.

Action: ST

3.3 The Masterplan Steps Project

JH's application to Enover for a grant of £40,000 has been successful, as has the application to the CBC Jubilee fund for £3,000 with matched funding, so the project can proceed. ST will apply for the letter of registration from ENTRUST who regulate money donated from the Landfill Communities Fund

Action: ST

Update: The registration letter has been received.

3.4 Pam Ayres Channel 5 It seems that Cheltenham won't feature in the series *The Cotswolds and Beyond*.

4 Finance report

This was circulated before the meeting. JK was pleased to note that donations are now shown in a separate income column.

5 PPRR

BCA addressed the meeting. She has been Chair of PPRR for a few months and her first task has been to reinstate good relations with CBC and The Cheltenham Trust. She remains concerned that CBC doesn't have a conservation plan or a recent, independent structural survey (required by law for a Grade 1 listed building) of the Pump Room. PPRR would like

to reintegrate into FoP and form a small group of trustees and experts who would work with organisations that safeguard heritage buildings to ensure that any necessary maintenance of the Pump Room is undertaken. In answer to AH's question about why PPRR doesn't remain separate, BCA replied that FoP is well recognised across Cheltenham, and carries more weight as a larger group. AH then asked why FoP needs another sub-group. BCA was uncertain of the reason for the split, which ST explained was because PPRR's aims were outside FoP's remit. HW was worried that applying for more grants would jeopardise FoP's planned and future projects; BCA said that the sub-group would fundraise for the building. JT pointed out that CBC is committed to the conservation of heritage buildings, and to their use, but has limited funds. BCA replied that members of PPRR would like to work with CBC on finding solutions to any problems. SM felt that PPRR would be more effective as a separate group, given its campaigning successes. HW felt that the Pump Room is CBC's responsibility and that FoP should not become involved in building maintenance. AH thought that PPRR damaged relations between FoP and The Cheltenham Trust, so an antagonistic group within FoP wouldn't be helpful. BC left the meeting and the trustees discussed her proposal. Every trustee who commented felt that reintegrating PPRR would not be appropriate or useful.

6 Social media

CM, who is particularly familiar with Facebook and Twitter, kindly offered to take charge of social media input for FoP. AH explained that currently the problem is acquiring content from trustees (other than HW) and members. CM suggested that local councillors and MPs could also be asked for content, and attributed news could be proactively sourced and added from other sites. Her offer of help was gratefully received. ST will send her the aims and objectives of FoP, and AH will meet her for a handover briefing.

Action: ST, AH and CM

7 Newsletter and membership process

AH asked for copy for the next newsletter by 15 August; he would welcome suggestions for a theme. ST requested some space for recruitment, for a new secretary and website manager (an advertisement that will also go onto the Gloucestershire volunteer website). JK said that the application form would be a separate sheet, inserted into the newsletter. She also suggested a piece about FoP's approach to CBC, the police and the Jockey Club about anti-social behaviour during race week. An unprecedented number of complaints of anti-social behaviour during the 2022 Gold Cup Meeting were made by local residents to the racecourse (Jockey Club) and to both local councillors – SF and JT. SF and JT attended a meeting at the racecourse where CBC, Gloucestershire Police and the Jockey Club addressed the matter; JK has also been in touch separately with the Police Complaints Commissioner and the racecourse's Community Engagement Manager. SF, JT and JK will liaise to draft a report of the current situation and what initial proposals have been made for remedying the situation.

JK, ST and SdeB have considered possibilities for attracting new members, including the extension of the Pittville-wide printed issues to areas beyond Pittville where many park-users live. New members and trustees who can make a contribution are needed. ST said that the ability to join via the website needs to be functioning before the next newsletter. The person who provided this facility for Holst Victorian House might do this if he is given the password for the website (by JH) and after SdeB has signed up to the Stripe payment platform. JK said that the small charge involved in the process would be far outweighed by the convenience and therefore likely numbers of new members.

Action: ST, JK, SF, JT, SdeB, JH

8 AGM: date, venue and speaker

This will be on 25 October, probably between 6.00pm and 7.00pm, with half an hour's setting-up time before that. HW will ask whether St Paul's Church might be available; there are catering facilities and a car park. ST will invite Jonathon Porritt to talk about net zero 2030.

Updates: HW has established that the church is available, as is – also, kindly, free of charge – a meeting room for trustee meetings. Jonathon Porritt is free to give a talk at the AGM.

9 HODS

RHW has had his blurb for a walk approved for the HODS leaflet. ST asked for volunteers to help Tom Clarke with the opening of the underground chamber at the gates from 11.00 to 1pm on 10 September. RHW volunteered. At the same time, Pittville History Works will be doing a presentation. SM asked to borrow an A-board; CA has the key to the storage place.

10 AOB

10.1 Proposal to shut Evesham Road for race week HW pointed out that without access to the car park, FoP would lose its largest source of income. JT will read about FoP's role in car parking in the last edition of the newsletter on the website. JT also pointed out that this year more people than before walked or used public transport to the racecourse.

Action: JT

10.2 Open evenings for new members AH suggested combining one with the AGM. JK said that people would welcome the opportunity to meet trustees, and it would be a chance to identify people with useful skills. ST pointed out the need to decide who should be considered a new member.

Action: All to be involved in planning

10.3 Passwords ST suggested that the need to hold these in one safe place (rather than by individuals) should be discussed at the October meeting.

10.4 Critique of website ST asked trustees to supply questions to enable her husband to interrogate the website as the first part of a comprehensive review.

Action: All trustees

The meeting closed at 6.26pm