



**Minutes of the Friends of Pittville Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 25 October  
2022 at 6.00pm at St Paul's Church**

Abbreviations used: FoP = Friends of Pittville; CBC = Cheltenham Borough Council; PHW = Pittville History Works; GSV = Green Space Volunteers; HOD = Heritage Open Day

**Trustees present:**

Hon Chairman Sally Thomas (ST)  
Hon Treasurer Sarah de Buriatte (SdeB)  
Hon Secretary Sandy Marshall  
Membership Secretary Janina Kay (JK)  
Judie Hodsdon (JH)  
Andy Hopkins (AH)  
Philippa Howell (PH)  
Henry Williams (HW)

**Members present:**

44 fully paid up members

**Minutes:**

Joc Potter

**1 Welcome**

ST welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Pittville, thanked Roger Widdecombe and his team for the use of the church and introduced the trustees. She thanked the trustees for their hard work; also Chris Archibald (CA), who manages the GSVs, Joc Potter, the minute taker, and all the volunteers, without whom FoP could not exist.

**2 Apologies**

Trustee: Robert Hyatt Williams (RHW)

Members: Sally Annesley, Alison Brown, William Lewis, Keith and Sue Norman, Susan Pickles, John Simpson, Barbara and Malcolm Stebles, Gareth Swain, Frank Thomas, Sue Walker

**3 Financial report**

SdeB presented an overview of FoP's financial activities for the year ending 30 September 2022; paper copies were available at the meeting, but her report can also be found on the FoP website. She listed the group's key financial activities; the year's expenditure on day to day running costs (below budget, although some costs will transfer to the current financial year) and specific projects (money paid to begin the Pump Room steps project) totalled £8,129.39. Income of £14,395.39 was a substantial increase on the previous year due to the post-Covid return of race week car parking fundraising, higher membership income and the return of regular fundraising events like plant sales and quizzes. The surplus for the year was £6,266. The balance sheet showed reserves of £33,136.44, a

strong, healthy position. The accounts were produced by SdeB and inspected by Joe Mar, an independent examiner, who – with ST and SdeB – signed off the accounts as being consistent with FoP's records and giving a full and fair view of the charity's financial activities. The accounts had also been approved by the trustees, and were accepted at the AGM (proposer John Pickles, seconder Fiona Clarke). SdeB thanked Joe Mar for his time and patience. There were no questions.

#### **4 Annual report**

ST presented her annual report, which is also available on the FoP website.

Projects and funding: The reinstatement of the steps in front of the Pump Room, in partnership with CBC and part of the Masterplan (see the CBC website), will mainly be funded by a grant from Enover Community Trust. The estimated cost of £57,000 (including a large contingency) will be finalised when tenders are received in January. Money raised from race week car parking has been used to start the project, and matched funding has been awarded from the CBC Jubilee fund. The possible closure of part of Evesham Road during race week would prevent fundraising from the running of the Albermarle Gate car park; local councillors and our MP have been alerted and pressure via members' connections for the road to be closed further up would be appreciated. ST asked for suggestions for future projects, especially for the west side of the park, to be sent to her ([chairman@friendsofpittville.org.uk](mailto:chairman@friendsofpittville.org.uk)) or to SM ([secretary@friendsofpittville.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofpittville.org.uk)); ideas will be discussed at the trustees' January meeting. Suggestions are also welcome for ways of celebrating the bicentenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Pump Room on 4 May 2025 and the declaration of the creation of Pittville Park 130 years ago in April 1894. Fundraising will continue through regular events: a quiz night will be held on 13 February, and a plant sale possibly on 13 May (to be confirmed). On 14 November Oggy Boytchev, a FoP member, will be giving a fundraising talk called Filming on the Front Line. A generous offer to host a garden party in the summer has also been received. Members were asked to support the Cheltenham Lottery, choosing FoP as the charity to benefit; FoP's income from the lottery, with its generous prizes, has fallen from over £800 in the first year to slightly over £500.

Communications: There will now be three online issues of the newsletter each year, and one wider distribution hard copy newsletter, with a membership form enclosed, each September. From January it should be possible to join via the website. A new social media manager, Caroline Macklin, will enable FoP to reach a wider audience. Members were asked to comment on the FoP website, to make sure it is easy to use and provides as much information as possible. Members were also encouraged to explore the PHW website, with its wealth of information on people, buildings and the general area.

GSV work contributed to the retaining of the park's Green Heritage accreditation and Green Flag award, as well as enhancing FoP's reputation with CBC, residents and visitors to the park.

Membership numbers increased and are close to 400. Members were asked to share ideas, including what makes them feel valued.

ST appealed for members to become trustees or join specific projects – which will be advertised in future newsletters – as volunteers. FoP has no shortage of funds or members but an urgent need for more help from new officers and volunteers if it is to continue, as well as new ideas.

The report had already been approved by trustees and was accepted by the AGM (proposer Sarah Mar, seconder JH).

#### **5 Election of trustees**

The AGM showed their appreciation of JH's work as a trustee and a previous chair as she stood down; she will continue as a GSV and a volunteer fundraiser for the steps project. This leaves a vacancy for a website editor that needs to be filled. RHW also stood down, but hopes to continue as a GSV and with involvement in HODS activities. CA was reelected as a trustee (proposer Desmond Marshall, seconder HW).

## **6 Conclusion**

Questions asked in advance were covered by the chair's report, and no more were asked. The next AGM will be in October 2023.

The meeting was followed by an interesting and impassioned talk by environmentalist and Cheltenham resident Jonathon Porritt on the accelerating effects of climate change and possible technological solutions. He then answered questions from members on China, the nuclear industry, aviation, population and hydrogen. The meeting ended at 7.05pm.