

**Minutes of the Friends of Pittville Annual General Meeting held on Monday 23  
October 2023 at 6.30pm at St Paul's Church, Cheltenham**

Abbreviations used: FoP = Friends of Pittville; CBC = Cheltenham Borough Council; GSV = Green Space Volunteers

**Trustees present:**

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

**Members present:**

There were 39 members present in addition to trustees.

**Minutes:**

Joc Potter

**1 Welcome**

ST welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Pittville. She thanked Roger Widdecombe and his team for the use of the church, and the volunteers without whom FoP could not exist.

**2 Apologies**

Members: Steve Blake, Andrew and Liz Auster, Chris Heathershaw, Gillian Lunn, Jenny Ogle, Susan Pickles, Carolyne and Malcolm Walters, Joëlle and Pascal Bernaville.

**3 Financial report**

SdeB presented an overview of FoP's financial activities for the year ending 30 September 2023. Electronic copies of the accounts were circulated before the meeting, and are also available on the FoP website.

She listed the group's key financial activities. The year's expenditure on day-to-day running costs and fundraising expenses totalled £3,395.70, with funds available for special projects carried over to the current year. Income of £19,195.88 from a variety of fundraising events – for which SdeB thanked all the volunteers – and including a grant carried over from the previous year to be used in part for the new information boards meant that at the end of September total reserves stood at £48,936.62. £14,000-£18,000 of that amount will be paid as part of FoP's contribution to the steps project.

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 were also been approved by the trustees, and were accepted at the AGM (proposer Judie Hodsdon, seconder John Pickles). SdeB thanked Joe Mar for his time and patience.

#### **4 Annual report**

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

*Membership:* The support of members (currently 350) is greatly appreciated. ST asked those present to spread the word further to increase the membership.

*Fundraising:* Regular activities will continue: the Quiz Night (scheduled for 19 February 2024), the plant sale, duck feeder management and another summer garden party. Race week parking, until now providing up to 70% of annual funds (although less this year due to wet grass making parking on it impossible and new traffic management on Evesham Road), is unlikely to be made available by CBC in 2024, so ideas for replacing this income for forthcoming projects (such as the planned sensory beds) are welcome. With better marketing, more funds are possible from the Cheltenham Lottery.

*Pump Room Steps re-instatement project:* Thanks are due to Enover Community Trust, whose Landfill Community Fund has provided more than two thirds of the funding. The work is progressing and should be completed by mid-November. There will be an opening ceremony, attended by Edward Gillespie, the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, which members will be invited to attend. ST appealed for contact details for someone to take photographs and make a video for posterity.

*Technology and communications:* Changes are being developed and tested, and members will be informed of these.

*GSVs:* There was a slight drop in volunteer numbers in 2023, and more are needed. Lucy, the park ranger will help with recruitment. A Masterplan meeting with the CBC Green Space Team will lead to a detailed plan of what needs to be done, balancing the needs of park users and wildlife.

No questions were received before the meeting, so the annual report – which had already been accepted by trustees - was accepted by the AGM (proposer CA, seconder PH).

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

The following were introduced by ST and then elected as trustees:

John Holloway (proposer HW, seconder AH)

Sacha K (proposer Susie Panikkar, seconder John Pickles)

David Kay (proposer Ark Thomas, seconder John Holloway).

ST announced that David Kay will replace her as Chair (although she will remain on the committee), and Sacha K will replace SM as Secretary, taking on some of her duties. The AGM showed their appreciation of the dedicated work for FoP of both ST and SM.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

The meeting was preceded by a short talk by Chris Nelson, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire on the relationship between the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. He and two officers from the neighbourhood policing team, Sergeant Meredith Gosden and Constable Simon Silsby, then answered questions from members on street patrols, antisocial and dangerous parking, and bike theft. The Commissioner also called for volunteers – perhaps retired people, working flexible hours – to assist the police with particular tasks, as specified on the police website.