

Friends of Pittville Trustee Meeting 9 April 2024 at 5.00pm at the Scout Hut, Central Cross Drive

Present:

Trustees David Kay (DK), Chris Archibald, John Holloway (JH), Andy Hopkins (AH), Philippa Howell (PH), Sacha (SK), Sally Thomas (ST), Henry Williams (HW)

Councillor Julian Tooke (JT)

Minutes Jocelyn Potter

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Sarah de Buriatte (SdeB) and Janina Kay (JK). Two potential trustees will attend a future meeting.

2 Minutes of the last trustee meeting, 16 January 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3 Finance and budget update

Papers were circulated before the meeting, and DK reported on the accounts. Little has changed since the strategy meeting. The £2,000 grant for the toolshed has been added, and CA will chase the money. The Horticultural Society lucky dip raised £83, and a bequest for memorial tree planting may be forthcoming at some time in the future. (CA noted that this would need to be passed to Chris Chavasse.) A deficit of £8,684 is projected, based on current projects, but it is hoped that this can be reduced by recruiting new members and fundraising.

Action: CA

4 Regular activities

4.1 GSV update

CA reported. Judging for the Green Flag and Green Heritage Site awards will take place on 1 May; despite the muddy areas caused by constant rainfall, success is highly likely due to the many improvements that have been made to the park.

GSV working parties have averaged 20.5 volunteers. It was agreed that £90-£100 from FoP funds should pay for coffee and cake at the Central Cross Café for Volunteers Week in June. Ubico are a long way behind schedule with work around the lake. Work should have begun in January, but didn't; the lack of maintenance means more work for volunteers and is dispiriting. It was agreed that HW can order and claim for more yellow vests, since they are running low; the cost will be about £100.

Action: HW

4.2 Plant sale responsibilities

DK will do a rota for 4 May. CA has the key to the Scout hut. SK will liaise with the Scouts and has applied for a licence. (ST will check that FoP does have indemnity up to £5million.) ST will have floats and a card machine on the day, and will deal with the money. CA has the banner and four crates of plants. He suggested that prices be raised, since plants generally are more expensive than last year. PH pointed out that posters are needed to promote the event. AH and JP will man the lucky dip bottle stall, with raffle tickets from ST. DK will store the bottles (which can contain anything) beforehand, so people should call him and deliver what they have to his home.

CA will amend A-boards to take into account cycleway-related diversions. HW will retrieve them from the Pavillion and, when they are altered, will take them to DK's garage. AH and Desmond Marshall will help CA transport plants on the day.

Since there aren't enough tables in the Scout hut, DK will ask Roger Widdecombe if 8-10

tables could be borrowed from St Paul's Church.

PH emphasized that no sales should be made before 10.00, when people expect the sale to start. JH will send out a mailchimp about the sale, and invite contributions of plants (by 9.45 on the day, labelled with the plants' names) and bottles. DK's phone number will be included for bottles.

Action: All trustees

4.3 CHS Show

(see above)

4.4 Summer parties

The cheese and wine party in JT's garden (maximum 50 people, each paying £20) will be on 15 June. ST and JH will help with preparations.

Afternoon tea, with sparkling wine, in DK's garden (also up to 50 people paying £20 each) will be on 7 September.

4.5 Drop-ins

JH reported that they continue to be enjoyable; the penultimate event was very busy, and the last one less so.

5 Projects

5.1 Tree board/Sensory beds

CA reported that three trees need to be photographed for the board, but the draft layout is done. It will be checked by Chris Chavasse and then manufactured. The £1,900 grant should cover costs.

The planters have been cleared for the sensory beds, and weeds will be allowed to grow over the summer before they are dug out and the soil is improved. Dunally Primary School, AimUp, the Beavers and Insight are all keen. Nicky Wakefield has a brief and will advertise for an artist to make it fun. A grant has been given by CBC, and FoP will pay the remaining costs.

5.2 Tool shed (new name: Volunteers Shed)

CBC, HW and CA chose a builder, but he has retired; they are looking at other quotes. AH will send CA the details of a forester friend who might be suitable. The shed must be wood to blend in, but will be strong enough to be secure. It will have electricity and water. A £2,000 grant has been awarded, and CBC will put in the base and an extra drain.

Action: CA, HW, AH

5.3 Rockery

This will be planted on 2 May if the plants have arrived, at no cost to FoP.

5.4 Bed 38

Five plants have arrived (at a cost of £50-£60), and need to be planted.

5.5 Footpath across wildflower area

Before the meeting, CA circulated correspondence with Wayne Sedgwick (CBC) about upgrading the path for walkers and Parkrun. The bark path is intended for local walkers, but is being hammered by runners, so a more robust stone path (eg crushed limestone edged with wood – AH, with serious hardcore below the membrane) is needed, at a probable cost of £20,000-£30,000. Parkrun aren't able to raise money or ask for money from members, and trustees agreed that the FoP name shouldn't be used for crowdfunding since the money wouldn't pass through FoP accounts. DK said that FoP can support the fundraising, but that it should be done in the name of an individual related to Parkrun.

HW raised the issue of the number of runners now being too great for the park, despite attempts to divert some to other parks. CA said that since runners are also turning other areas into quagmires, CBC needs to spend some money to deal with those areas. JT said that it wouldn't be unreasonable to ask Parkrun to contribute somehow. AH suggested communicating to them the damage done.

CA will reply to Wayne, summarising the discussion above, and will then wait for detailed proposals.

Action: CA

5.6 Bicentenary event

DK will meet Laurie Bell (The Cheltenham Trust) and liaise with her over an event in 2025.

Action: DK

6 Website update, including newsletter production

JH reported that the deadline hasn't yet been met for data input [*update: but JK and SdeB have since met to iron out issues relating to this*], but JH is now fully trained and can add news and send mailchimps. Louise Allerton is experienced in marketing and fundraising, and is willing to help FoP, for example by generating posters and being on a fundraising committee. JH and AH will meet Louise to talk about developing a digital newsletter for the three non-printed issues; JH suggested that the newsletter could direct members to the website for more information, allowing for longer articles, but agreed that it would still be quarterly and in a similar style. The annual printed version would need to be in the same format as at present.

AH asked for copy for the next newsletter by 15 June.

Action: JH, AH

7 Establishing a fundraising committee

DK will run this; ST and possibly Louise ?? and Mandhir Sahota will join him.

Action: DK

8 HODS, September 2024

ST circulated a summary of the plan that she and CA have for leading walks and talks through the west side of the park. AH will attend the launch of HODS on 11 July, since ST is away.

Action: ST, CA, AH

9 Confirmation of 2024 Excomm meeting dates

These will be on 9 July and 8 October. Trustees should bring ideas for an AGM speaker to the July meeting. JT suggested asking Dom Joly.

Action: All trustees

10 AOB

10.1 Pedestrian crossing, Evesham Road

JT reported that a crossing on the corner of Evesham Road and Wellington Road is being included in the cycleway project.

10.2 Trees damaged in cycleway works

CA has reported damage, and trees will be replaced. He will ask that spoil around trees is removed by hand, not using a digger.

Action: CA

10.3 Pedestrian crossing, Tommy Taylors Lane

A petition for this is being prepared, and JT will present the petition if reelected.

10.4 Cycle racks

CA asked that Richard Lane (GCC's project manager for the cycleway) be told that attractive cycle racks will be needed just inside the entrance to the play area. JT said that as the GCC representative, Stephan Fifield would be a more effective spokesperson than he would.

Action: CA?

10.5 HW's driveway

HW was congratulated on making £90 for FoP during race week by renting out his drive.

10.6 Pittville History Works

ST reported that it was important to maintain the website, but that the (depleted) group needs a leader if more work is going to be done. DK pointed out that finding one is the group's responsibility, although FoP can help if they word an advertisement for inclusion in the (wider distribution) September newsletter. AH said that the role should probably be a technical one; ST agreed that the development role is likely to be parked, and that the ex-Chair (John Simpson) needs to be asked how the database works and can be accessed. AH suggested, given the huge value of the resource, handing it over to a library, university or Gloucestershire

history archive, for consultation by a wider readership.

It was agreed that JH should ask Ben Jeffery (Blueline Media) to comment on the site, and assess how big a problem it would be to host it on the FoP website – and how much that would cost.

Action: JH, ST

10.7 Pdfs of park boards

JH would like these on the website, and has pdfs of newer boards. He will ask Judi Hodsdon, Judy Langhorn and Sarah Harvey about the older ones, since Fiona Clarke hasn't been able to help. CA suggested that the manufacturer of the new boards may also have pdfs of the older ones, and will pass the details of the manufacturer to JH.

Action: JH, CA

10.8 Crucial memory stick database

JH will ask Sandy Marshall for this.

Action: JH

10.9 Rusting gates and railings

DK has sent photos of issues to CBC.

10.10 Prestbury Road street lamps

These have been reinstated and it was agreed that they look superb.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

