

**Friends of Pittville Trustee Meeting
7 April 2026 at 17.30pm at the Scout Hut, Central Cross Drive**

Present:

Trustees John Holloway (JH, Chair), Louise Allerton (LA), Sarah de Buriatte (SdeB), Nichola Finan (NF), Andy Hopkins (AH), Barbara Leigh (BL), Joc Potter (JP)

Minutes Joc Potter

1 Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Geoffrey Rowe (GR), Julian Tooke (Councillor)

2 Minutes of the last meeting

These were passed as a true record.

3 Finance and Budget Update

These were circulated by SdeB before the meeting. She drew attention to counterfeit £20 notes used for payment at the races car park, noted that CBC has charged FoP twice for the Pump Room board, and asked for trustees' expenses claims to be submitted before each meeting.

4 Regular activities

4.1 GSV update BL reported that work continues at the Albert Road gate, although planting won't take place until the end of May. About ten GSVs worked until 2pm on the long path near the badger sett, doing a job that would have been quicker and easier with a digger and without formal thanks from CBC for their efforts. She agreed with AH that there should be limits on what volunteers are expected (by CBC) to do.

It was agreed that FoP wouldn't be involved in National Action Day, but BL will suggest on Facebook that people count birds on that day, 18 April.

BL will circulate an article about council cuts nationwide to parks budgets.

Action: BL

4.2 Drop-ins NF reported that she had attended two successful drop-ins.

5 Projects

5.1 Residuum Board BL reported that corrections have been sent to Peter, and she will ask Chris Archibald about the next steps in the production process for the residuum board and rockery boards. LA asked that QR codes should link to the main website page, not to specific pages that might change.

Action: BL

5.2 Green plaque This will be discussed with The Cheltenham Trust (the CT) at a later date. AH and BL expressed interest in joining JH for any meetings with CT executives.

5.3 Fitness Trail feasibility JH reported that FoP has been offered the possibility of bidding for the cost of a trail, with a proposal to be submitted by the end of April. This could be a

series of boards, each describing an exercise. He and LA will look at a possible location and then talk to Julian. BL pointed out the relevance of this to the behaviour change programmes (see 10.7).

Action: JH, LA

5.4 Survey to members on future projects

JH reported that this can be distributed through Mailchimp and the website can generate the results. It was agreed that the survey should show a relevant picture for each suggestion, and some text about the benefits, and should include a box for other ideas. Each suggestion will fall under one of three headings: large projects (£50,000+), medium-sized projects (£20,000 - £49,000) and small projects (less than £20,000). Members will be told that the survey is a consultative exercise, allowing the trustees to make final decisions. LA, NF and JH will draft the survey, aiming to have it out by the end of May, with a view to a 5-year plan by the AGM in October.

Action: JH, NF, LA

6 Planned events

6.1 Ogle soiree, 18 April 18.00 – 20.30 JH reported that all 48 tickets have been sold, and six complimentary ones allocated. JP will prepare name badges for lanyards; JH will pass suitable sticky labels to her. BL offered an additional chicken platter; AH will prepare nibbles with beef.

Action: JP, JH, BL, AH – and other trustees

6.2 Plant sale, 2 May 10.00 – 12.30 AH and BL have organised this, drawn up briefing notes and allocated tasks. In addition, Sally Thomas and GR's offer of helping to set up and take down was gratefully accepted. BL and JH will remind volunteers and members about plant donations. It was decided to risk bad weather rather than getting involved in canopies, although BL might be able to ask neighbours if necessary.

Action: AH, BL and all helpers

6.3 Garden party, 25 July, 18.00 – 20.30 JH, SdeB and Sally Thomas will organise this, along with AH. Steve Blake might be asked if he would give a talk about Albert Road – or Oggy Boytchev on an aspect of his career (see 10.10 below).

Action: JH, SdeB, AH

6.4 Bandstand concerts, 21 June, 19 July, 2 August, 16 August AH distributed draft information about the bands and asked for suggestions for a better heading for the event. He reported that the CT is very supportive and will provide an electrician and chairs for the bands, as well as allowing musicians to move under the colonnade if the weather is bad and publicising the concerts. SdeB will claim the £1,000 contribution to costs from Adam Reynolds. It was agreed that FoP should ask for a larger contribution next year, and that AH can spend up to £300 on publicity. JH thanked AH for his work on this project. AH will draft a formal letter to each band, which will include a request for confirmation that they have their own insurance, and will show it to SdeB before sending it. He will also send out the dates again on Whatsapp and ask for one trustee, in addition to JP, to sign up for specific date(s) to help him with each event on the day.

Action: AH, SdeB and others

7 Possible events

7.1 FoP birthday celebration JH will send round a Whatsapp message, asking for ideas for a 20th birthday party at the AGM.

Action: JH and all

7.2 Participation at Cheltenham Biodiversity Festival, Saturday 30 May, 10.00 – 14.00

Details of the events are still to be confirmed. When they are, BL will update the committee via Whatsapp.

Action: BL

8 Website developments and issues

NF and LA will look for discrepancies on web pages, and the need for updates. NF will create a new membership form, since there is no Word version of the current one. AH will ask Chris Archibald about the QR codes for the sensory garden.

Action: NF, LA, AH

9 Newsletter

The next one will go out on 1 June. LA suggested that it include an interview with the guardian of the park animals and birds; the history of the bandstand and information about the forthcoming concerts (AH to write); information about rules for fishing; reports on and previews of FoP events; a report on the cycle event on 14 June (AH).

It was agreed that from now on, newsletters and Mailchimps should be sent to both individuals in couples who have joint membership; Ben will be asked to make sure we can add both names to the Mailchimp database at the point of joining.

Action: LA, AH and others

10 AOB

10.1 Deregistration from Entrust This was agreed.

10.2 Fishing licences People have been seen fishing at night, and by day with nets, both of which are unacceptable. Reports should be passed to BL, who will email a police officer or councillor with responsibility for wildlife. Members will also be encouraged to report problems.

It was felt that the Parkwatch sign at the gates by the Pump Room needs updating and a phone number. JP will try to find out who put it up and how it can be changed.

Action: BL, JP

10.3 Distribution of FoP flyers LA passed out flyers for distribution.

10.4 Trustees' FoP email addresses No more are needed.

10.5 Possible change of meeting venue to the Airs and Graces Although room hire would be free, a £50 deposit would be needed and the meeting day would need to be changed to a Monday or a Wednesday. JH will Whatsapp trustees.

Action: JH

10.6 Coffee and the GSVs It was agreed that student volunteers can be treated to coffee if necessary, and BL should then submit a receipt.

10.7 GCC's behaviour change programmes linked to the Gloucestershire Cycle Spine BL has composed an excellent list of park activities, which can now become a web page.

Action: LA?

10.8 Orienteering leaflet BL will print and post the orienteering route. Perhaps Parkrun volunteers could renew the 3-2-1 route poster, which has faded, and repaint the arrows in the metal indicators that are fixed to the ground around routes in the park; they would be covered by our insurance if they sign the relevant forms.

Action: BL, and a trustee to approach Parkrun

10.9 Student survey on park enjoyment It was agreed that we have no consent to send out a third-party survey, and that placing other QR codes in the park would be confusing, but that a link can be put on FoP's Facebook page, making it clear that the survey is a first-year student's project. JP will reply to Laura.

Action: JP

10.10 Oggy Boytchev's new novel Oggy has very generously offered to donate £7 of every £10 sale made through the auspices of FoP events to FoP. Trustees agreed that FoP shouldn't sell books itself, but AH suggested an interview with Oggy in the September newsletter, mentioning the book – or a talk by Oggy at the Summer Party about an aspect of his career, followed by a promotional reading from his book by JH.

10.11 Woodland Garden JP will reply, saying that since CBC own the park, plans for a garden need first to be cleared with Adam Reynolds and Chris Chavasse.

Action: JP

10.12 Stroud Valley Parish Councils Two councils have contacted JH for advice on setting up a friends group with a view to saving a neglected cycle path. JH has sent them a newsletter on the subject and is happy for him and BL to talk to them on Teams.

Action: JH, BL

10.13 Judi Hodsdon's report As a contribution to Judi's report on Cheltenham's heritage, BL has created a database of all the town's green spaces.

10.14 Friends of Sandford Park JH and BL had a meeting with the incoming and outgoing Chairs plus their secretary Anne Evans, who has been very successful at fundraising and is happy to advise.

10.15 Race week car park JH passed on GR's thanks to BL and Bruce for putting everything away after the races, and thanked GR for his long hours and tireless work over the week. GR, BL, Bruce and Susan were a great team and would be willing to organise the parking again next year. LA also passed on Sacha's offer of help with events and activities.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm