

**Present:**

Trustees: Judie Hodsdon (JH), Fiona Clarke (FC), Paul Benfield (PB), Chris Archibald (CA), Gloria Jones (GJ), Adrian Allen (AA), Andy Hopkins (AH), Philippa Howell (PH), Sandy Marshall (SM), David Richards (DR), Henry Williams (HW)

Non-voting representative: Dennis Parsons (DP)

Apologies: John Payne (JP)

Minutes: Jocelyn Potter

**1 Office-bearers appointments**

CA took the chair for this part of the meeting, and the current officers were all reelected unanimously and unopposed: JH as Chair (proposed by HW, seconded by AA); FC as Secretary (proposed by DR, seconded by AA); PB as Treasurer (proposed by AA, seconded by DR).

**2 Minutes of last meeting, 23 October 2018**

These were accepted as a true record.

**3 Matters arising**

**3.0 Item 17 Revival of the Drop Ins** FC reported that this was still under discussion.

**3.1 Items 6-8 AGM 2018 and reports to website** These had been uploaded.

**3.2 Item 10 Pittville History Works (PHW) commemorative parade** It was agreed that the wreath should now be removed from the gates.

CA reported that a bench has been fitted on the town side of the gates – apparently a CBC bench on GCC land – without consulting FoP, and despite (JH) an earlier decision not to have a bench there. DP said that issues of consultation are being discussed in CBC; currently, consultation is often not carried out.

JH pointed out that, also without consultation and perhaps even necessary listed building consent, the gates by the Pump Room have been repainted the wrong colour.

CA lamented that since CBC consulted FoP on the Tour of Britain, it is disappointing when consultation doesn't happen. He will raise the above matters with Malcolm Walls (CBC's Green Space Development Officer).

**Action: CA**

**3.3 Item 16 Albemarle Gate car parking** £515 was raised in November. JH thanked everyone who helped. DP said that a paper on car park charges by CBC will be going to cabinet in January. He was asked to raise the issue of Green Space Volunteers using the car park without charge while working. PB pointed out that revenue raised is reinvested in the park, and JH that uses of the Pump Room by groups such as the Horticultural Society are also relevant to the CBC decision.

**Action: DP**

**4 Other roles**

Membership: GJ

Website and Facebook: Hilary Simpson; AA

Green Space Volunteers organiser: CA

PHW contact: SM

Pump Room Action Group (PRAG) contacts: FC, CA , HW and Hilary Simpson  
Events: Quiz, PH; Plant Sale, SM, DR, HW and others  
Newsletter: AH  
Minutes: JP

## **5 Finance**

PB apologised for a presentational issue in the previous year's accounts. Income and expenditure totals are unaffected by the correction, which will be pointed out at the 2019 AGM.

Funds for a cheque uncashed despite reminders will now be released.

It was agreed that CA could buy coffee for Green Space Volunteers after the next work party.

JH has submitted the annual return to the Charity Commission, and has also reported to the grant-giving body Entrust.

## **6 PRAG update**

CA and DC (and now ex-trustee Hilary Simpson) met representatives of The Cheltenham Trust, who gave their first response to PRAG's report, 'The Visitor Experience at Pittville Pump Room'. A review of opening hours, the visitor journey and the customer charter will be done by Sarah Robertson when she joins the Trust in January. In the meantime, the Pump Room will be closed for January for works to the inside of the dome. Susan Kellock is the new Cheltenham Trust Chief Finance and Operations Officer.

The Trust will also be carrying out a wide-ranging appraisal, independently chaired by Sarah Staniforth, with four Trust representatives. It will consult with key stakeholders, such as FoP. It will also consider a Statement of Significance for the Pump Room, possibly employing a consultant for this.

JH congratulated PRAG on its report.

## **7 December newsletter**

It was noted that the location of the forthcoming quiz had been omitted from notice of the event.

AH thanked all contributors for their submissions, drew attention to the glossier paper, and apologised to GJ, who had to fold all the newsletters after a mix-up at the printers led to a delay in printing. He asked that committee contacts of the various other groups (PRAG, PHW etc) anticipate that reports will be needed for the next newsletter. Since it will appear on 4 March, AH requested contributions by mid-February.

**Action: all contributors**

## **8 Projects**

**8.1 Learning resources** CA thanked everyone who worked on the 2018 worksheets, and will now submit the grant application. There will only be three or four new sheets in 2019, since there is now a need to pause and seek feedback.

**Action: CA**

**8.2 Park Masterplan** CA and HW reported that work on the rockery has started. A written programme of work now needs to be agreed with CBC. CA will organise a meeting with Adam Reynolds (AR).

Communication with the public about changes is a problem – although it can be given during work parties - because the CBC hasn't yet placed a double noticeboard on the west bridge. FC suggested removing most of the notices on the existing noticeboard and highlighting plans there.

More detailed plans are needed for work around the Pump Room; a quote for the plans is expected to be obtained by AR.

Updates will be given in the next newsletter.

**Action: CA**

## **9 Future events**

**9.1 FoP Quiz Night, Monday 18 February** This will be held, for members and friends, at the Feathered Fish. PH reported that there have been no registrations yet. She will liaise with FC to send out reminders. Sixty people are needed. PH said that participants from St Vincent's and St George's were difficult to accommodate at short notice last year, but would be welcomed if they made contact.

**Action: PH, FC**

**9.2 CHS Spring Show, Sunday 24 March** All are welcome to help.

**9.3 FoP Plant Sale, Saturday 4 May** DR will contact the nurseries. CA will advise on consulting the Scouts. A sub-committee meeting will be held after Christmas.

**Action: DR, SM, PH**

**9.4 Other events** JH invited everyone to bring ideas to the next meeting. They might be for members only (eg a garden party) or for the public (eg another children's sports day).

**Action: All**

## **10 Any other business**

**10.1 Stepping stumps on West side** PB reiterated his concern that these are in a dangerous state. CA believes that there are plans to deal with them, but will raise the matter again.

**Action: CA**

**10.2 Parkwatch – now Neighbourhood Watch** CA will also raise the issue of liaison with this group.

**Action: CA**

**10.3 Pittville Park 10-Year Management Plan 2016-26** CA will be participating in the annual review, which will include helpful comments made by judges last year. CBC have to reapply for awards (Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation) each January. CA's offer to give a short presentation at the next meeting to explain the plan was accepted with enthusiasm.

**Action: CA**

**10.4 PHW** SM drew attention to two new articles on the website.

**10.5 Newsletter submission** DR offered to write another article on gardening, and will liaise with AH.

**Action: DR**

**10.6 Footpath parallel to Tommy Taylors Lane** HW informed the meeting that a runner had fallen, possibly due to the poor lighting; DP said that CBC is on the case. CA pointed out that the west path is pitch black at night because new lighting only lights the road. DP agreed that many other places have the same problem. He informed the meeting that despite being in recovery from heart surgery, JP could be emailed for advice on whether specific foot/cyclepaths were the responsibility of CBC or GCC.

**10.7 Ubico litter-picking truck** HW has photographs of this cutting corners across grass, driving up a bank of snowdrops and generally being driven without consideration. He will send the pictures to CA, who will raise the matter with AR.

**Action: HW, CA**

**11 Date of next meeting, Tuesday 29 January at 6.15 pm**

JH thanked everyone for coming. The meeting ended at 7.15pm.