



**Minutes of Friends of Pittville Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 24 October 2019  
at 6.30pm, at Dunalley Primary School**

Abbreviations used: FoP = Friends of Pittville; CBC = Cheltenham Borough Council; PHW = Pittville History Works; PRAG = Pump Room Action Group; GSV = Green Space Volunteers

**Trustees present:**

Hon Chairman Judie Hodsdon (JH)  
Hon Secretary Fiona Clarke (FC)  
Hon Treasurer Paul Benfield (PB)  
Membership Secretary Janina Kay (JK)  
Chris Archibald (CA)  
Andy Hopkins (AH)  
Philippa Howell (PH)  
Gloria Jones (GJ)  
Sandy Marshall (SM)  
David Richards (DR)

**Minutes:**

Joc Potter

JH welcomed everyone to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Pittville: current members, and those deciding whether to become Friends. The meeting was attended by 36 members.

**1 Apologies**

Trustee: Henry Williams

FoP members: Jill Archibald, Elizabeth Auster, Alison Ayres, Lesley Bailey, David Bromley, Rosemary Bromley, Katherine Canning, David Collins, Dulcie Herrington, Helen Harrison, Tony Harrison, Jeannette Howell, Martin Jones, William Lewis, Eileen Lockwood, Catherine Martin, Mrs. H J Moloney, Douglas Ogle, Dennis Parsons, Angela Pearson, Thomas Pearson, Anne Reeves, Stan Reeves, Rob Rimell, Andy Price, John Simpson, Janet White, John White, Kath Williams

**2 Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 30 October 2018**

The minutes for last year's AGM were on the FoP website and JH hoped that everyone had seen them. No comments were received before the meeting, and the minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record. Proposed by Brian Watts. Seconded by Terry Langhorn.

**3 Treasurer's report**

PB presented an overview of FoP's financial activities for the year ending 30 September 2019.

There was £3,193.78 of approved expenditure for the day to day running of the charity. (Other costs related to specific fundraising projects, such as maintaining the duck feeder, and to support for groups like PHW and the GSVs.) Income, from membership fees and fundraising activities, was a little under £6,800. The surplus from general activities, about £3,600, was more than the previous year, partly because a grant for the learning resources project was received in the year after costs had been incurred.

The main project, the development of the Park Masterplan, was paid for in the year ending September 2018, but fundraising was continuing for its implementation – for example, through the collection of fees for car parking at Albemarle Gate during race times.

Overall, there was a surplus for the year of £7,800.62. The total in the bank account was £16,843.48. Some of that was allocated for the general running of the charity (the general reserve), and some for the implementation of the Masterplan (project reserve).

Gerald Seal asked how long fundraising from car parking could continue, since CBC would be introducing its own charges. JH replied that, to the best of her knowledge, charging would be suspended during race times so that FoP could continue raising income from fees.

Joe Mar — the independent examiner — had signed off the accounts, with JH and PB, 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. They were accepted unanimously at the AGM. Proposed by David Richards. Seconded by Chris Archibald.

#### **4 Chairman's report**

JH summarised her annual report, which – like the Treasurer's report – is available in full on the FoP website.

FoP's activities were all to further the charity's objectives. 37 GSVs (average attendance 21) attended twice-monthly working parties, contributing almost 1,000 volunteer hours. In addition to regular tasks like leaf-sweeping and cutting back shrubberies, they embarked on the job of clearing the rockery, which is part of the Masterplan. (Other Masterplan projects require building and listed building consent before they can begin.) CBC park staff assisted with heavier tasks, such as removing rocks from the lake. Planting will begin in the spring; in the meantime, DR and others are keeping weeds down.

PHW continued their research into Pittville and its residents. Having started with the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they had reached the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and were adding to an impressive website, which also makes available Steven Blake's seminal works.

PRAG worked to improve the visitor experience at the Pump Room, and produced a second secret shopper report. JH thanked volunteer guides, who are much appreciated by visitors, although more are needed. Further information about PHW and PRAG was available at the back of the hall.

JH also mentioned the two talks given during Heritage Open Days; the butterfly walk; members' drop-ins (in the basement of Havanas, on the last Thursday of each month); the regular stall at the Horticultural Show, and fundraising activities such as the quiz night, the plant sale and duck feeder management. Newsletters were distributed alternately to members only and to more than 2,000 households around Pittville. FoP's work was also publicised through the FoP website and Facebook page.

JH encouraged members to sign up, via the FoP website, to the Cheltenham Lottery. Half of the ticket money would then be donated to FoP.

Annette Berg asked about the likely effect of car parking charges at the Pump Room on visitors. JH replied that she believed the idea was to stop commuters and university staff and students parking there all day; with a maximum of four hours permitted, the first two hours probably free and a £1 charge for the next two hours, visitors were unlikely to be

discouraged. In response to a second question, following the trial of the closure of the West Approach Drive gates, CA reported that the gates are open at present, probably awaiting the results of the consultation that was carried out after the trial closure.

Linda Marsh asked how many members there were. The answer was 358 at the end of September, but not all paid up for 2020.

The Chairman's report had already been approved by the trustees, and was accepted unanimously by the meeting. Proposed by Linda Marsh. Seconded by Susie Panikkar.

JH thanked Dunalley Primary School for providing the venue, free of charge; Joe Mar for examining the accounts; FoP members for their support; volunteers, and the Committee.

She thanked GJ, who had been the membership secretary and organised newsletter deliveries, and JK for taking over those roles. Her special thanks were for FC, a founder member of FoP who took on the role of secretary and so many additional tasks that three or four people are needed to replace her, and one of the team who built FoP into a highly successful organisation. She will be sorely missed. A presentation of a gift from her fellow trustees followed. In response, FC thanked trustees for their gift and mentioned AH's interview of her in the previous newsletter, which covered some of FoP's successes over the past thirteen years of her involvement in the establishment and running of the charity. Many people contributed to these achievements, and she had made lots of friends. She would, she said, still be involved as a GSV, and probably in PRAG, and would be continuing to run the website temporarily.

## **5 Election of trustees**

JK had been a trustee for several months, and had taken on the role of membership secretary. Rob Hyatt Williams, a GSV, was away, but was also standing for election as a trustee. Both were elected unanimously by the meeting.

JH said that there was still one vacancy, and that several trustees would soon need to be replaced; she encouraged people to contact her ([chairman@friendsofpittville.org.uk](mailto:chairman@friendsofpittville.org.uk)) or the secretary ([secretary@friendsofpittville.org.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofpittville.org.uk)) if they would be interested. The Committee was also in especial need of an IT advisor (who needn't become a trustee), and of an administrator (who needn't have particular technical skills) for the FoP website.

## **6 Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **7 Date of the next Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will take place on a date to be decided in October 2020.

JH concluded the formal meeting at 7.20 pm.

Following the meeting, Dr James Hodsdon gave a very interesting illustrated talk on Pittville's short-lived swimming pool.