

Present:

Trustees: Judie Hodsdon (JH), Sandy Marshall (SM), Paul Benfield (PB), Chris Archibald (CA), Philippa Howell (PH), David Richards (DR), Henry Williams (HW) Janina Kay (JK) Gloria Jones (GJ)

Observing: Sally Thomas (ST)

Sally Thomas was welcomed to the meeting as potential new trustee and introductions were made.

1 Apologies Andy Hopkins, Jocelyn Potter, Dennis Parsons

2 Minutes of last meeting, 10 December 2019. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising (see items below)

4 Finance Report PB reported that a new bank account for Pittville Pump Room Revival was being set up, and when this had been done the remaining £57 could be transferred. Barclays Bank refused to issue a credit card to FoP as there was no credit record. Membership income is up on last year. JK confirmed she was actively chasing outstanding subscriptions.

5 Website and Email progress JH reported that she and others had met Jan Broadway. Jan is however currently very busy and had not yet found the perfect hosting solution. She has worked on Wordpress. JH is now able to update the website using Wordpress. Stored information in FOP email accounts may be lost when moving to a new host so FoP email address users will need to move the information and confirm to JH when this is done.

Action: All FoP email address users

6 March Newsletter JH advised the deadline for copy is 15 February. PH will write a draft to report to be updated immediately after the Quiz on 24 February.

Topics to be considered for the future include the Torchlit Cycle Rides, Bands in the Park, future events in the Park. FOP did not know about the Sue Ryder duck race event over the last weekend.

HW reported that dredging of the lake and the children's boating lake is scheduled for the Spring. CA said there is work being done on the upper lake marginal planting.

JK has referred an enquiry from Cheltenham Camera Club to AH.

CA will send photos of the Green Space Volunteers working in the Park to AH and provide some statistics from the 2019 working parties.

CA will also write about the newly formed Pittville Pump Room Revival group, and new visitor sheets and Hilary Simpson is hoping to meet Sarah Cook. Alex Chalk MP has publicly endorsed the group.

SM will provide note for the Pittville History Works talk by Steven Blake in the autumn.

DR will write about spring gardening, the Spring CHS show and the FOP Plant sale.

JH will write about the Cheltenham Lottery.

JK suggested that the FoP Newsletter should include the website address as the Civic Society does.

PH will ask St Vincent's and St George's for some photos of their duck feeding volunteers for a later issue.

Action: PH/CA/SM/DR/JH

7 Regular Activities GSV CA was pleased to note that the average number of GSVs remains as the previous year, with some leavers and some new joiners. CBC needs to be encouraged to get some more planting done on the rockery, so that it can be seen that something new is happening as well as the same annual tasks. Feedback is still awaited on the yew tree in Bed 38. CA, JH and DR will meet separately. An unauthorised large memorial plaque has been fitted to one of the newly planted trees near Albemarle Gate. All agreed this was not in keeping with the Grade 2 listed park. Two more padlocks have been attached to the bridge. HW will use bolt cutters again to remove them. JK said the newly formed 60 strong Clarence Square residents' group is concerned about the maintenance of the Square, especially hedges and security issues. They are seeking to access funding from the Montpellier/Pittville green corridor initiative CA confirmed the CBC budget for all parks and open spaces is aggregated. JH is to attend a CBC budget briefing meeting on 16 January.

8 Future Events

8.1 Drop in on 30 January.

8.2 Quiz Night, 24 February 2020 PH has drafted an email to be sent out to members as a mail chimp and asked for donations for raffle (to be taken direct to the venue on the day. PB will help with managing the money, HW will sell raffle tickets and distribute raffle prizes.

Action: PH/PB/HW

8.3 March Races 10-13 March Parking. More volunteers would be welcome. A separate mail chimp will be sent out after the Quiz one. **Action: CA/SM**

8.4 Cheltenham Horticultural Society Spring Show, 5 April 2020 – JH will arrange the rota

8.5 Plant Sale 2 May. The May Bank Holiday has been changed from Monday 4 to Friday 8 May for VE Day 75th celebrations so it was agreed to move plant sale to 2 May. SM will arrange a trading licence and other documentation. PH will contact the Scout leader. It will be necessary to organise raffle prizes. DR will contact the nurseries. Volunteers will be needed to help. We should plan to repeat last year's successful arrangements.

Action: All

8.6 Wildlife Festival CA attended a meeting of interested parties, mainly special interest groups. R Rolfe at the University is planning a week-long event of various activities, based in Pittville Park, possibly with a marquee, culminating in a festival on Saturday 30 May. Gloucestershire University is seeking grant funding and schools and forest schools will participate. FOP will take the opportunity to promote our work with volunteers on a stand. CA to get information to go in the newsletter. SM said Desmond Marshall was involved through the local naturalists and had offered to help.

Action: CA

8.7 Summer event

HW will be out of action so JH will hold an afternoon garden party with tea and cakes as before. It is likely to be at the end of August but will avoid a clash with CHS show on Sunday 24 August. **Action: JH**

8.8 Pittville after Pitt. This is a joint event with Holst Birthplace Museum, 30 October 2020, talk by Stephen Blake at Pittville School, to be promoted to FoP members.

8.9 AGM 2020 Due in October on a date to be agreed. A speaker to be found. JH suggested John Simpson could speak about his new book about Cheltenham paupers. **Action: JH**

9 FoP Communications Paper JH advised she will take on updating the website as she can now use WordPress. CA will try to find out who can provide a list of park events to go on the website. The paper was agreed and JH will next produce a list of who does what. **Action: JH**

10 Any Other Business

The Cheltenham lottery has made 11 draws so far with FoP supporters winning 7 prizes, some being more tickets. FoP has benefitted by £120 so far.

CA will print off lottery colour posters to display in the Park, especially the Boathouse. JH will send him the link for the posters. **Action: JH**

CA has the estimated costs but is waiting to see the drawings (now done) for the gates and steps in front of the Pump Room. CA is meeting Adam Reynolds on 16 January. It was thought that the time has come to discuss setting up a joint project. Sally Thomas was invited to attend meeting on Bed 38.

Action: JH/CA/ST

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 21 April 2020

The meeting ended at 7.30