

Friends of Hedgemead Park
Minutes of Committee Meeting
Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 6.30pm

Present: Graham Groom (GG)(Chair), Caroline Groom (CG)(Minutes), Nigel Pollard (NP), Joan Rotheram (JR), Edwina Vardey (EV), Nick Tobin (NT) Apologies for absence: Julia Sherwen (JSh)		
Agenda Item	Key points	Action/follow up
1. Welcome	GG welcomed everyone	
2. Minutes Meeting 10/12/19	3.4.5 Drug Squad contact number still awaited from Jeremy Dymond 4.1.2 Condition of fir trees – GG, CG & NP had shown to Mark Cassidy, Parks Dept and he was not concerned at condition 4.3 GG has estimated number of volunteer hours during 2019 at over 1000! Minutes 10/12/19 approved	EV
3. Updates	3.1 Membership renewals – NP to send out renewal notice shortly, and asked if committee members would consider setting up Standing Order 3.2 Communications – GG sending out blogs – keen not to overload people. Also publishes short tweets. Winter newsletter sent out by NP 3.3 Activities & News - Civic Reception, 2 new benches, Green Flag pole mentioned. The HPF dedicated noticeboard ordered – acknowledged £500 from Walcot Councillors' fund. National Lottery 25 Award of £925 for Tree Trail granted (see 5.1) GG, CG, NP & JSh toured park with Paul Pearce, Parks Team – a) 2 more “Victorian” style benches should be installed in coming year b) Battlement tower and wall – organised clearing of ivy from arches, and hoping that Property Services will survey, but realistically may be low priority. Then will need required work costed. Bath World Heritage Enhancement Fund interested in funding some restoration but require evidence of community commitment, i.e. seed funding.	NP

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3. Updates cont.	A small 'one off' fund of £400 available from BaNES for Friends Groups. Will need to be spent by September 2020. GG will complete application form and clarify the criteria, and whether, for instance, using it for the above could qualify as seed funding. Otherwise might be appropriate for children's play element. Exhibition on Hedgemead Park at The Museum of Bath at Work from 15th April to end of June. NP working with Stuart Burroughs at the museum. First gardening group scheduled for trial on Friday March 13th to carry out maintenance as suggested by parks team. Saturday mornings suggested as best option for future groups. 3.4 Children's Activity Afternoon suggested for an afternoon in the school summer holidays. Avon Wildlife Trust can help with 'bug hunt'. Possible cakes & local produce for sale. Low key event only, but likely to be popular. CG to contact Louise Holloway re activities. Dawn chorus walk discussed, but ideally April and insufficient time to arrange for this year. 3.4 JR researched companies providing "natural" children's play elements, and circulated examples to the committee prior to the meeting. Agreed that several smaller ones suitable (particularly from Touchwood), appeared good value for money, and would blend in with park. Jeremy Dymond has informed GG that the parks team were reluctant to spend more time on this. JR thinks Guinea Lane nursery still had some interest, but needed to know commitment, and whether other funding available. Committee thanked Joan and agreed worth continuing with. 3.6 Treasurer's report attached. Current balance £970.	GG NP GG & CG CG JR
4. HPF first year objectives v achievements	4.1 Audit of trees and shrubs – agreed to concentrate on Tree Trail (see item 5.1). One of the HPF members Kevan Horne can help with identifying shrubs, and can supply some plants. 4.2 Information boards – NP reports history boards expected April/May and will circulate images/drafts of text when received from Jeremy Dymond. No progress yet on wildlife boards 4.3 Good link established with Henrietta Park via Henry Ford, and GG attended Friends of Henrietta Park AGM. Also attended Bristol and Bath Parks Forum meeting in Bristol, and due to attend Steering Group in Bath on March 31st. 4.4 Website up and running. 4.5 Environmental monitoring no longer pursued as not possible with B&NES	NP GG

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5. HPF's 2020-21 objectives	CG circulated plan of 2020-21 objectives to committee prior to meeting. Progress so far: 5.1 Tree Trail - All but one Champion Tree identified. GG contacted the National Tree Register who will send a volunteer later this year to review. Keith Stuffins and Henry Ford have also offered support. Will try Denise Hart but very busy NP has drawn up design for tree labels and identified company to supply Seeking out designers for web based and paper tree map with information for adults and children. Early trial of the trail perhaps with families at proposed Children's Activity afternoon 5.3 Gardening/landscape - Wild Flower roundels – will identify which plants still viable at gardening group event. Beds need removal of grass and probable spring seeding with annuals. Other objectives to continue as in plan	GG & NP
6. AGM agenda: 29th April 2020 at St Swithins Church	Committee agreed to change proposed start time to 6.30pm JR – apologies, but representative from Vineyards will attend Agreed members vote on objectives for 2020-21 NP will ask for submissions for agenda prior to meeting GG to check re projector availability for powerpoint Jeremy Dymond to be invited	NP, GG & CG
7. AOB	EV asked about replacement of tree which fell earlier in year at Colebrooke Gate. No information available about planting or repair of railings.	
8. Date of next committee meeting	Tuesday June 23 rd at 6.30pm at 1 Upper Hedgmead Road.	