

Friends of Hedgemead Park
 Minutes of Committee Meeting No1, 2021-22
 Wednesday July 14th 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom

Present: Graham Groom (GG, Chair), Nigel Pollard (NP, Treasurer), Caroline Groom (CG, Minutes), Joan Rotheram (JR), Edwina Vardey (EV), Julia Sherwen (JSh), Nick Tobin (NT)

No apologies for absence

Agenda item	Key points	Action/follow-up
1. Welcome	Graham welcomed a full house of committee members	
2. Minutes March meeting	Minutes agreed	
3. Updates/matters related to Briefing Document	3.1. Possibly to meet in person at next meeting, but will review Covid situation nearer time 3.3. Battlement & Tower – no news since survey completed, which was funded by Bath World Heritage Enhancement Fund. Unclear how any repair work required will be funded, plus the expense of scaffolding. Some Community Infrastructure Levy money is understood to be available. 3.4. Treasurer's report: 33 members signed up = £320 in subs. £330 from History of Hedgemead Park book, but some costs not yet included in report – copyrights, ISBN, and printing costs. Over £1000 carried forward. NP happy to produce calendar for 2022 – all agreed. Tree trail account: Of the £920 awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund, £892 has been spent. Small balance – agreed to "let go". Discussion re attracting new members. GG & CG are planning occasional presence in the park– small table in bandstand, photos and info about what we do, application forms etc. GG – planning to create an application form on website to make it easier for the public to apply for membership. Looking into electronic payment methods, but this usually involves charges. GG will continue to explore. GG – could we have donation point via terminal on HPF notice board?	GG NP GG, NP and CG to take ideas forward

	NP – Can purchase a handheld terminal for this purpose from Rymans – 1.5% per transaction. GG needs to check if any restrictions apply for a constituted group EV suggested leafletting houses around and near park to publicise HPF	
4. Discussion points	4.1. Autumn planting initiative below Battlement & Tower. Due to start work on clearing area but subject to timing and extent of repairs needed on B&T. Two of the gardening volunteers who are knowledgeable and proactive are leading on this and have researched, ordered and purchased bulbs and plants in advance as supplies become limited in Autumn. After discussion it was agreed that the £235.50 spent would be reimbursed from HPF account. Need to have estimation of final amount needed. Discussed using the planting initiative to promote our work, attract new members and gardeners, and raise funds. Make use of HPF noticeboard to publicise. Might be some funding available through parks department. 4.2. Caroline Place Railings: A local resident has requested some infill planting of further laurels where the railings can be climbed over to enter park. He has seen young children doing this. He would also like an anomalous length of privet hedge removed. This has been passed on the Jane Robson and they are communicating directly. Committee agreed that this communication was appropriate and no further action from HPF committee required at present. 4.3. Memorial Tree Labelling Request: HPF approached by a member of the public to help replace a memorial label placed on tree planted 30 years ago by a family to remember their mother. Parks department not able to accommodate request so GG has agreed that HPF will assist using our experience of tree labels. The lady is happy to purchase the label, but perhaps a donation to HPF could be suggested if we install it.	GG & CG No further action at present GG
5. Objectives 2021-22	5.1.2. Tree planting – EV asked if a tree could be planted for the Queen’s Green Canopy project. Initiative ends in March. Discussed possible planting near Colebrookdale entrance where Tree of Heaven fell, but also in place of the Weeping Ash. GG not sure if Ash will be removed yet. A small ornamental tree might be most appropriate given space constraints and the number of trees in the park now. 5.3.1. Infrastructure – GG considering purchasing a portable jet wash for cleaning fountain and benches. This would not be expensed through HPF’s bank account. NP – perhaps Graffiti cleaning or cleansing team might help Discussed Bath BID Team but JR confirms an annual fee required so not appropriate.	GG will enquire whether this meets criteria for Green Canopy initiative

	5.3.3. JSh continues to pursue water supply for park but request currently with Property Services and Parks Dept have not progressed this. NP – meeting with an employee of the company who installed fountain. Hoping for further info/help re water supply near fountain.	NP
6. AOB	GG reported changes in personnel in Parks Dept. Keith Rowe appointed as Team Manager to oversee parks (post previously held by Mark Cassidy). Was previously project managing the National Lottery funded restoration on Sydney Gardens. Council Cabinet members have changed, and Dave Wood now covers parks, assisted by Jess David. Resident living close to HP has complained of damage to his property in Lower Hedgemoor Road caused by tree roots from a large conifer in HP. Asked if HPF could help. He has already met with the Council's Tree Officer who has refused his request for the removal of this mature tree from HP. Local councillor Tom Davies has taken it to Highways Dept to review. EV: would like to paint legs of HPF notice board black to match top NT: A resident of Ainslie's Belvedere who had applied to build a garage at the bottom of his garden has withdrawn his planning application. Concerns from residents about the instability of the ground in this area.	No action No action EV No action
7. Date of next meeting	Constitution requires 4 meetings per year. GG will send doodle poll for dates from end of Sept/beginning of October Meeting concluded at 8pm	GG