

Friends of Hedgemead Park

Minutes of Committee Meeting No 2, 2022-2023
Tuesday 6th December at 6.30pm at 1 Upper Hedgemead Road

Present: Graham Groom (GG) Chair, Nigel Pollard (NP) Treasurer, Caroline Groom (CG) Secretary, Nick Tobin (NT), Edwina Vardey (EV), Clare Rosier (CR)

No apologies for absence

Agenda Item	Key Points	Action
1. Welcome	GG welcomed everyone	
2. Minutes meeting 19/07	2.1 Approved 2.2 Matters arising – all actions carried out	CG to send final minutes to committee
3. Updates since last meeting	3.1 Communications: <i>Hits on website</i> have increased recently, perhaps since items for sale have been put on site. <i>Social media :</i> Twitter – difficult to get numbers Instagram – 77, lots of “likes”, but how useful is this? Followers of news post now 37 Discussion about how to increase/improve usage, such as following other businesses, e.g. Landrace and the Bagel Café in Walcot St. 3.2 News & Activities: Your Parks Bristol & Bath have appointed a ranger, Mali Kedward, to help volunteer groups to identify & carry out activities. She is planning a hazel hurdle-making session for February 16th (half term week) for local residents and families. Hurdles will be installed at Lansdown Road entrance, and to border the Friends' Garden (previously Vegmead). Retaining wall repairs: Now underway. Work will pause on Dec 21st and restart in January. Battlement and Tower – Grade II listed. Consent granted and work will hopefully start in Spring/Summer.	GG

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3. Updates since last meeting, continued	Water supply: Graham met with Paul Pearce (BANES Parks) and Chris Muscat (Wessex Water). Cannot trace source of water coming from pipe near fountain. Paul will follow up with BANES Facilities, resurrecting an earlier quotation request for work to trench a pipe from fountain to the railings opposite and install a stand pipe. Paul to look at possible funding and Chris will inform us if Wessex Water can provide any of the items needed. Friends' Garden: Fruit trees hard pruned following advice from local expert. New gooseberries bushes planted. Unruly rosemary and lavender on border of lower half pruned. Cuttings taken in case needed. Plan to plant with colourful perennials to be seen from road, and to be insect friendly. Duke of Edinburgh Award student: A local student is volunteering and working with Caroline on a weekly basis helping with litter picks, gardening, and cleaning. Very capable and practical. Wessex Water Community Fund: Put in bid for £950. WWCF only able to grant £500. Cascade of water butts and tool trunk installed. Composters not yet in place. Likely to go over budget if we complete all tasks. Discussed whether appropriate to use HPF funds but Paul Pearce may be able to help as he has done so for other Friends Groups. Merchandise: Nigel has produced calendar for 2023. A small number of wooden artefacts have been made by David Gladden from some of the fallen Holm Oak. Profits from sale to be shared with David and HPF. He will produce more of these in the New Year but is open to suggestions on other types to broaden appeal. Some discussion about other possible ideas to suggest. 3.3. Treasurer's Report: Seen and approved. Recognised that some expenditure on book and calendars will need to be recovered with sales.	No action at present GG NP

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4. Discussion topic	Your Parks Bristol and Bath – ‘Parks 4 All’ Initiative: Recent report highlights that there is very poor accessibility to many parks (and their facilities) for people with disabilities and their unpaid carers. Discussion about how HPF could help to improve this: • Survey of park – what is available, ease of use, step free routes and different gradients. • Develop map of park to illustrate above • Approach Bath Carers’ Centre for advice re. auditing park, and for feedback • Approach Guinea Lane Nursery who use the park regularly – what do they most gain from the park? Any suggestions on improvements?	EV and CR to start project, with help from all as needed
5. HPF Objectives 2022 - 23	5.1 Trees: Caroline has approached Sally Crudge to follow up on tree planting to replace 2 fallen trees and to discuss succession planting. Await response 5.3 Infrastructure: Caroline has undertaken audit of benches, and will continue with cleaning and review No further discussion on objectives	CG CG
6. AOB	Request to change start time for future meetings from 6.30pm to 6pm agreed by all. No further business. Meeting closed at 8pm	
7. Next meeting	March – date to be decided. Graham will send Doodle poll	GG