

Friends of Hedgemoor Park
Final Minutes of Committee Meeting No 1 2023-24
Wednesday 12th July at 6pm at 1 Upper Hedgemoor Road

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

Agenda Item	Key Points	Action
1. Welcome	All welcomed	
2. Minutes meeting 7 th March 2023	2.1 Minutes approved CG to send final minutes to committee. 2.2 Matters arising not included in agenda for current meeting: Social media – nothing new to report. GG has considered whether Your Parks could repost some HPF posts but concluded they have little time/resources to do this. Merchandise from fallen Holm Oak – Some of the trunk will need to be moved to enable work to start on railings/gates in? September. David Gladden yet to be contacted re artefacts, or possibly something based on the Camden Elephant New membership year – A5 handbill re membership and forthcoming AGM delivered door to door as agreed. Produced a reasonable response to joining and/or re-joining as members but did not result in increased AGM attendance. Walcot Street and group membership – CG reported that whilst doing brochure drops for a local theatre, she noted that the businesses in Walcot come and go, several empty premises and funds are tight for all of them. Little scope for encouraging group membership at present. Dog of the Month – started in May, with first 4 months covered. Membership a requirement for owner Trees – still no direct contact with the tree team, but Jane Robson helpfully attended AGM and read statement from Denise Hart. Tree team have been at full stretch with new planting for the national tree planting, restarting in autumn. Areas with a lower tree canopy percentage will be prioritised over HP which has a higher than average percentage. At present no adopted policy for replacing trees and a decision is awaited from the Council Cabinet re development of a new woodland policy. There is a new sponsorship form that HPF can use if we wish to fund raise for a tree. Unclear if we can choose tree ourselves. Secret Hedgemoor – Idea for a trail from NP. Ongoing	CG NP to follow up CG to research sponsorship and clarify criteria NP

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3. Minutes from AGM 25 th May 2023	3.1 Minutes approved CG to send final copy to committee	GG to post on website CG send minutes
4. Updates since last Committee meeting	4.1 Communications – nothing further to report 4.2 News and activities Membership – fewer individual members (53) so far this year but increase in group/family members (10). Discussed usefulness of trifold leaflet drops in Bath. NP currently has a few sites. However, unclear if it results in new members. A flyer is cheaper and might be as effective, however trifold leaflet has received positive comments for appearance, content, and design. To be updated and cost of printing smaller number of trifolds considered. Green Flag award 2023-4 – to be announced shortly but hopeful for HP New councillor, Oli Henman has visited park with GG. Very interested in the park and HPF work Repair work on Battlement and Tower and London Street entrance – Paul Pearce met contractors last week and work hopefully to start in September Bath in Bloom (BIB) – kindly donated money to help us buy a battery-operated strimmer – now purchased and risk assessment submitted Parks Dept for approval before use. Representatives from BIB also joined our last gardening session plus 3 volunteers from their sponsors, Mogers Drewett, and it was extremely productive! CR asked if other group members might like to offer some help in exchange for positive publicity Friends' Garden – progression better than expected despite very dry conditions for several weeks. Adam Jukes now closed the Vegmead bank account and kindly transferred the money to HPF for ongoing gardening for which we are very grateful. Bee Bold Award – WECA – Metro Mayor Dan Morris launched this award and had a large number of applicants from Bristol/Bath area. HPF work on pollinators in the meadow earned us a place in the final shortlist, for which we have a certificate. Dog of the month – CR suggested amending notice to invite a dog for September to extend scheme Drugs in HP – Several HPF members have noted an increase in drug dealing and taking, including injecting, in HP in the late afternoon, early evening, particularly around the rustic shelter in full view of the playground. Other parks have reported similar problems. GG has discussed with our PCSO, Paul Childs. We are advised to report directly to Avon & Somerset Police via their website and have advised others accordingly. Safety in parks is a high priority for people, and for some this will feel unsafe. Committee felt need to have a clear pathway for reporting, the most useful information to give, and a realistic idea of how proactive the police can be. GG will be meeting with two members of the Friends of Henrietta Park to discuss how to take this forward.	NP to use up current leaflets GG & CG update GG & CG to consider GG to follow up

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4. Updates since last Committee meeting continued.....	4.3 Treasurer's Report Nothing untoward to report. Committee satisfied with accounts and positive balance	
5. Discussion topics	5.1 Your Parks Bristol & Bath – Parks 4 All Initiative EV and CG have completed and submitted the Your Parks Accessibility Guide and await publication on the HP page on the BANES website. There will be a link to this from the HPF website. CG has written a short walk in HP using accessible route from the Lansdown Road gates and highlighting natural & man-made features. Will be posted on HPF website. 5.2 AGM 2023 Discussed small number of attendees and how to attract more interest. Complies with HPF Constitution to have an AGM but would prefer more of an opportunity to discuss local residents' ideas for the park. Meeting was well publicised – website, noticeboards, letter box drop. Not all organisations' AGM's are well attended, particularly when the members do not know each other, as is the case with the HPF friends. Consider whether inviting friends to an occasional gathering in the park would spark more interest. Consider a change of venue next year – The Bell is a group member – perhaps use their meeting room.	CG & EV to continue with initiative during 2023 To be considered in good time before next AGM
6. HPF's 2023-24 objectives	6.1 Trees – committee agreed that likely to be local interest in funding trees for replacement/succession planting 6.2 Gardening – continue with regular sessions, developing wild flower areas with pollinators 6.3 Infrastructure – cleaning and reporting maintenance problems to BANES 6.4 Community – focus on Parks 4 All this year	
7. AOB	Public liability insurance due for renewal. Check cost but probably with Zurich again as experienced with this type of insurance NP – Clean and Green team from BANES are visiting each ward to respond to cleaning requirements – visiting Walcot 31 st July to 4 th August. NP – had picked up some leaflets produced by Bath Urban Treescape (bathurbantreescape.com) each featuring a different tree related trail. NP suggested offering HP tree trail information to use for another trail. Committee all in agreement.	GG to action NP
8. Date of next meeting	Late October/early November 2023 Meeting finished at 8pm	

