

Friends of Hedgemoor Park
 Minutes of Committee Meeting No 2, 2023-24
 Tuesday 7th November at 6pm at 1 Upper Hedgemoor Road

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

Agenda Item	Key Points	Action
1. Welcome	GG welcomed everyone to the meeting	
2. Minutes meeting July 1 st 2023	2.1 Minutes approved CG to send final minutes to committee. 2.2 Matter arising: Trees: CG has emailed tree team twice with some queries about trees in HP including about their new sponsorship form with no response (Later agenda item). AGM Minutes now on website. CG to send copies to committee. Drug use in HP: GG has had some discussion with other groups, particularly Henrietta Park but no new developments. Public Liability Insurance: Renewed – premium has increased by 30%. Bath Urban Treescape: HP Tree Trail submitted and is now on their website: bathurbantreescape.com	CG CG
3. Updates	3.1 Communication Three news posts published to HPF website. Occasional posts to social media feeds. 3.2 News & Activities Green Flag: awarded for 23-24 (5th year in a row) and the new flag is flying Your Parks: Access4All initiative - We have completed the Accessibility Document. CG has heard from Madie Lewis at Your Parks that it should be added to the BATHNES website some	

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3. Updates continued	time in December. CG & EV have completed details of a short walk in HP and information about visiting both for the HPF website. Your Parks has now moved on to the 'Make Space for Girls' initiative looking at improving recreational facilities and safety in parks for girls and young women. GG will attend a Your Parks focus group to discuss their plans for encouraging legacies as one means of raising funds. Your Parks has announced its annual Volunteers Awards ceremony for 2023, taking place in Bristol on 3rd February 2024. Trees: Yew Tree encroaching side of house in Caroline Place: No feedback from Parks Dept yet – CG will chase up response. Battlement & Tower restoration: Work on bastion tower now completed but battlement not included in the scope of work – Paul Pearce is now bidding for funding for completion in 2024-25 budget. Bath World Heritage Enhancement Fund has earmarked £5000 to help towards repairs. Work shortly to start on London St entrance, restoring damaged iron railings and gate pillar. Volunteer Gardening: Eight gardening sessions completed totalling 95 hrs of volunteer effort (typically 5-6 volunteers per gardening session, including 3 new occasional attendees). Bath in Bloom donated 200 daffodil bulbs which have been planted in the raised beds behind and to the left and right of the bandstand. Wildflower meadow has been reseeded with yellow rattle and plug plants of beneficial grasses and perennial flowers. Friends' Garden (previously Vegmead) – fruit trees have been pruned; good colour through summer and autumn with chard plants and flowers; huge squashes grown and harvested! Park Notices: Dog of the Month ran for 6 months and has now come to an end. Anti-social behaviour: Less obvious presence of drug dealers in area. However, Avon & Somerset police rely on multiple reports from the community to be able to act. This intelligence is very helpful for police units in the wider area too. NT reported that Mark Shelford, Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner is attending FOBRA meeting soon and will address drug problems in the	CG

3. Updates continued	area. Waste bin behind bandstand replaced after previous one destroyed by attempted disposal of single use BBQ. CG has requested Parks Team put up clear notices about BBQ's not being allowed in the park for safety reasons. This would make it easier to challenge users. Merchandise: David Gladden has produced some more artefacts from the fallen Holm Oak. Latest items are darker and attractive in colour. Key rings and heart cut-outs. To discuss pricing and best way of selling them. 3.3 Treasurer's Report: Nigel updated. Healthy balance of £2,429. (This includes 'one off' receipt from Adam Jukes on closure of Vegmead bank account, now ringfenced for HPF gardening activities). Friends' Subscription rate remains at £5 but we are grateful for the optional donations which amounted to £200. NP's History of Hedgemead Park has sold well at Mr B's bookshop and profit now £56. The Holm Oak artefacts have been bought 'up front' so represent a loss until HPF sales have covered the outlay. Likely to only appeal to local residents as the wood is from a tree in HP.	CG to follow up
4. Discussion topics	4. Membership renewal campaign: Overall number of members has decreased. Discussed ways of retaining and attracting new members. EV – could have an event in the park and send Friends a personalised invitation. NP – The Bell is looking to support events locally but majoring on music/bands. Would be a bigger and more complicated event. Discussed a community event in an afternoon near Easter with tea/cakes.	EV & CG to take forward
5. HPF's 2023-24 objectives v achievements	5. Objective for 2023-24 Trees: Reported on earlier in meeting Gardening/Landscape: Reported on earlier in meeting. Infrastructure: Bench maintenance – graffiti removed from benches. Broken bench reported to Parks but yet to act. CG to chase up	CG

5. HPF Objectives continued	Community Engagement: Membership numbers, and accessibility project discussed earlier.	
6. AOB	No other business	
7. Next Meeting	End February 2024. Doodle poll nearer the time.	GG
Meeting closed at 7.30 pm		