

Friends of Hedgemead Park

Minutes of Committee Meeting No 2 2024-25

Wednesday 20th November at 5.30pm at 1 Upper Hedgemead Road

Present: Graham Groom (Chair) GG, NP, Caroline Groom (Secretary) CG, Edwina Vardey EV, Claire Rosier (CR)

Apologies: Nigel Pollard, Nick Tobin

Agenda Item	Key Points	Action
1. Welcome	Graham welcomed all to the meeting	
2. Minutes Meeting No.1 (23 rd July 2025)	2.1 Minutes approved as true record 2.2 Matters arising – Repainting/renovation of the Hedgemead Park sign at the Lansdown Road entrance: A Friend of Hedgemead Park contacted GG offering to do this but has since not been available. EV offered to contact Ironart who have been used by BANES to renovate railings. Missing bench adjacent to bandstand – CG has contacted BANES through 'Report It' facility. Report acknowledged. Artefacts from holm oak – GG to advertise merchandise again before Christmas. Public liability insurance now in place for coming year with Markell Direct which specialises in charities and non-profit organisations. Encouraging use of bandstand for music, daytime only – CR – discussed putting up a sign in Spring inviting people to use bandstand. Promote use through, say, Next Door social media app, perhaps with photo of bandstand in use. CG to ask friend who plays in string quartet. No Mow May – BANES have adopted this idea in small areas of all parks. However, the "No Mow" period tends to extend throughout summer and early autumn, and this has caused problems at the Wildflower roundels area (Hooper's Loop). GG to request meeting with Colin Hall, Park Grounds Team Manager, to discuss a different regime. NP requests that HPF publicises the 'Report It' facility via the Friends' noticeboard, to encourage members of the public to independently report issues seen in the park. CG has found the 'Report It' process has recently changed so will check and provide information.	EV CG GG CR CG GG CG
3. Updates	3.1 Communications – Three new posts to HPF website & 2 posts each on X & Instagram, 1 on Facebook Website visitor stats – August 232 views, September 128 views, October 186 views 3.2 News & Activities – Current membership: 107 Individual; 8 Group Floral and horticultural awards – Bath in Bloom: Friends' Garden and Wildflower Meadow awarded Silver Gilt in 'Horticultural Achievement by a Group' category. RHS and Britain in Bloom: HPF awarded Level 5 – Outstanding in the It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme Lloyds Bank – changing HPF account from Treasurer's Account to a new Community Account from January 14th 2025, designed for not-for-profit organisations. Will now levy charge of £4.25 per month, plus transaction fees but these will only be applied after the first 100 transactions in any one month. Plan to stay with Lloyds as generally supportive of small groups & charities and do have a branch in Bath.	

3. Updates continued	3.3 Treasurer's Report (given by GG) – Membership subs up £100 this year, member donations up £152. History book has been selling well with sales of £155 this year. NP considering another print run of 50 copies. Expenditure £351 to date, including PL insurance premium of £100. Net funds up £980, balance carried forward is £3,404.	NP
4. Discussion topics	4.1 2025 Membership Drive – GG thanked EV for the letter she wrote for the mailshot last year which increased membership numbers, but we also resulted in offers of practical help. Plan for 2025: a handbill thanking people for their support and highlighting a few of the successes from this year to encourage people to re-join. Discussion re local nursery who use park regularly – EV to investigate whether parents might be interested in becoming members as a contribution. Discussed having a presence in the bandstand for a day in spring to promote membership. GG concerned that 2-part process for paying membership may be deterrent – Sydney Gardens Friends now use Collectiv money pool system accessed by QR code from their website. No charge. GG to look at whether right fit for HPF. Has considered Stripe but decided against at the moment. 4.2 Bath Green Spaces Network – CG has set up WhatsApp group for those who have shown an interest. Still working on contacting volunteers for areas not covered by BANES. Preparing list of resources to be hosted on HPF website. 4.3 London Road Planter – One of the planters currently in London Road is to be moved and Cllr Oli Henman, Walcot ward councillor, has approached GG about relocating it in HP. He is in discussion with Keith Rowe at BANES. Majority of committee agree idea worth considering – HPF friends would be responsible for planting it up and maintaining. CG would like it planted as a sensory garden. Possible locations discussed at meeting – GG, EV & CR to meet in park to consider possible sites. 4.4 Tree Work – Weeping ash now taken down, but no plans to remove stump. Further extensive work planned: Lime trees to be pollarded this winter. Coral Bark Willow – to be pollarded, reducing height from 30 metres to c. 10 metres. Carolina Poplar – has been cut back in the past, the wounds have never healed properly, and it is now very weak, so has been scheduled for felling in 2025. Cuttings may be taken to grow a replacement sapling. Dead Holly tree under London Plane to be removed. Tree trail will need updating to reflect lost trees and pollarding.	EV GG CG GG, CR, EV GG, CG
5. Any other business	Tree artefacts – Some now missing. Agreed to research a replacement collection. Tulip & Crocus bulbs – Bath is twinned with Alkmaar in the Netherlands. They have gifted 24,000 bulbs to Bath this year and HPF will be planting some in HP. Interpretation Board – the board in the central area has been vandalised. Agreed to look in to cost of repairing or replacing.	EV, CG NP, GG
6. Date of next meeting	February 2025 Meeting closed at 19.35	