

Friends of Hedgemead Park

Minutes of Committee Meeting No 1 2024-25

Tuesday 23rd July at 5.30pm at 2 Ainslies Belvedere

Apologies: Claire Rosier

[illegible]

Agenda item	Key points	Action
4. Updates cont.	4.4 Other updates Holm Oak artefacts – no more needed from David Gladden who has kindly made some more key ring fobs. Still some in hand for which HPF have paid. Consider advertising artefacts on notice board HPF awaits results of Bath in Bloom judging – Friends’ Garden and meadow entered. Whatever the outcome there have been many encouraging comments from the public using the park.	CG/GG
5. Discussion topics	5.1 Changes in Parks Dept. As anticipated several employees have been made redundant from their current posts including Paul Pearce and Jane Robson, who leave at the end of August. Paul is moving to Green Infrastructure and Recovery Team which works closely with Bathscape, so HPF may still have some contact with him. However, Friends Groups have been given no guidance as to who is to be their contact in the Parks Dept., but Your Parks Bristol & Bath has been trying to establish future working arrangements. GG to attend Steering Group meeting soon and may gather more information. 5.2 CG has offered to set up a Park and Green Spaces Volunteers’ Forum to enable sharing of ideas and support. Will probably be informal WhatsApp group to start with. Your Parks Bath & Bristol are keen to offer support for meeting venues and education which is helpful. 5.3 Battlement wall repairs – this work is not yet completed. Paul Pearce has passed on information he has but has also offered to be contact if needed. Oli Henman, Councillor, has also agreed to support completion of work. Some money already allocated, and tower has been repaired, but may be shortfall. GG expressed concern that money does not “disappear”. 5.4 HPF Public Liability Insurance up for renewal but increased by 30% last year. GG will investigate options other than Zurich, but if competitive will renew. HPF has sufficient funds to cover cost.	GG
6. Any Other Business	A couple of items from the AGM came up for discussion: 6.1 Possibility of allowing BBQ’s in the park. Currently not allowed for safety reasons but there are no notices making this clear. There has been one serious fire in a bin necessitating input from fire brigade, plus numerous incidents of disposable BBQ’s being left in the park and street. To safely enable BBQ’s, a designated area would need to be set up with BBQ picnic tables and safe disposal bin as in Victoria Park. There is only one suitable site, on the flat tarmacked area above the Friends’ Garden. The public are free to picnic in the park and is it necessary, or sensible to allow BBQ’s? The majority of the committee present voted not to allow BBQ’s, with one member feeling it should be considered. 6.2 Music in the bandstand – Could and should this be considered? Discussion about impact on people living near park, but in some ways pity not to make some use of it. However it would not be	

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6. Any Other Business cont.	popular with everyone and could realistically only be for day time use as no lighting in the park at night. Could HPF encourage groups such as choirs to rehearse in bandstand during summer? EV wondered if public were aware of why some areas of the park have not been mown, and plants such as nettles have been left. Might be worth putting some information in noticeboard, or at sites where not to mow has been a conscious choice by the Parks Dept. NP suggested noticeboard could be updated – people may not be aware of the council’s Fix My Street service. A link in the noticeboard may encourage public to report e.g. fly tipping in park.	Interested members of committee to consider how this could work GG NP
7. Date of next meeting	End of October/early November. Doodle poll in due course Meeting closed at 7.10pm	CG