

Friends of Hedgemoor Park
Committee Meeting No. 3 2023/24
Tuesday March 5th at 5.30pm

Final Minutes

Present: Graham Groom (GG) Chair, Nigel Pollard (NP) Treasurer, Caroline Groom (CG) Secretary, Nick Tobin, (NT) Claire Rosier (CR), Edwina Vardey (EV) Apologies for absence: None		
Agenda item	Key Points	Action
1. Welcome	GG, Chair welcomed everyone	
2. Minutes from Meeting no.2 07/11/23	2.1 Minutes approved. CG to distribute final copy. 2.2 Matters arising: Broken bench now removed but replacement not yet installed Trees: CG informed by Sally Crudge – monkey puzzle tree to be planted at London St/Margaret Hill entrance (planted end of Feb). Tree team have secured funding for replacement tree planting as several losses around BANES area. CG has reported leaning black pine tree above Friends' Garden site (alerted by NT) and also asked whether the weeping ash is scheduled to be taken down. No reply yet.	CG
3. Updates since last meeting	3.2 News and activities: The council budget for 2024/5 includes a £40,000 saving in Parks & Green Spaces. Intend to achieve this by outsourcing the Play Inspection Team. This was approved in the Council Meeting on February 20th. However, there is also a longer-term plan to make further cuts to cover an outstanding deficit, and Paul Pearce, Jane Robson and Su Shore were informed in February that they are on a "redundancy list" for later this year. Your Park Bath & Bristol asked for clarification from Cabinet Leader, Cllr Kevin Guy, and were told that there has been a "miscommunication". No "front line" staff to lose jobs. Cllr Mark Elliott (Cabinet Member for Resources) stated at full Committee meeting on 20th February that he does not want to see a reduction in Parks service. We await developments, but the loss of Paul and Jane would have a big impact on Park's service and on their liaison with friends groups and other third sector organisations.	

3. Updates continued	Local Green Space (LGS) consultation: Patrick Rotheram (Chair, Vineyards RA) has made a determined effort to have HP approved for LGS designation. The Council's Planning dept maintain that HP's status as an Historic Park and Garden provides superior protection against development so LGS designation not necessary. HPF website: Updates to website include more information/suggestions of ways in which Friends could get involved, and information on Visiting/Accessibility. Merchandise – Holm Oak artefacts: Some artefacts (key fobs) have sold out, and sales = £68. Discussion re future artefacts, e.g. spoons that might be more popular than “artistic” items. CG to contact local resident who expressed interest in making “tumps” for children with some of the wood. 3.3 Treasurer's report: Bank balance stands at £2,536.79, which includes the receipt of a ‘one-off’ transfer to HPF of £567.28 from Vegmead as part of their handover of the community vegetable garden of the same name.	NP/GG CG
4. Discussion topics	4.1 Membership renewal campaign: EV's personalised letter to local residents was reviewed. All agreed style and information excellent. EV will make a few tweaks as discussed. Committee members to carry out letterbox drop as last year. Also discussed whether to reprint the older trifold leaflet. Perhaps business card or A5 leaflet that could be passed on to members of the public as appropriate during activities in the park, e.g. litter picks/gardening. 4.2 AGM 2024: Agreed that 2023 format worked well. However attendance was poor, and this may not change. Venue: NP to explore whether a room at The Bell could be used as it has HPF Group Membership. Otherwise, St Swithin's Crypt has always accommodated us. AGM date: Propose Tuesday May 14th (or 13th) Motions: Re-election of committee members – all current members willing to stand with potential additional member to be approached. No changes to constitution proposed, but GG asked committee to consider if any other discussion points/motions should be included. Agreed representative from Parks Dept should be invited.	EV NP
5. AOB	No other business	
6. Next meeting	Probably late July – date TBC. GG to issue Doodle poll in due course. Meeting closed at 7pm.	GG