



Minutes of Friends of Pittville Executive Committee Meeting - 23 January 2007

1. Members Present

Chairman – Tony Mason (TM)
Hon Secretary – Ron Pattinson (RP)
Hon Treasurer – Paul Weston (PW)
Ward Councillor - Dave Prince (DP)
Ward Councillor - Diane Hibbert (DH)
Park Watch – Desmond Fitzgerald (DF)
PARA – Peter Simmons (PS)
Anne Roberts (AR)
Arran Stibbe (AS)
Fiona Clarke (FC)
Roger Turner (RT)

1.1 Apologies

Colin Eynon (CE)
Judy Langhorn (JL)
Rosemary Mansbridge (RM) (CBC)
Adam Reynolds (ARY) (CBC)
John Crowther (JC) (CBC)

1.2 Absent

Geoffrey Pratt (GP). Apologies received following day; GP was unavoidably detained at another meeting.

2. Minutes of Executive Committee (Excom) Meeting – 24th October 2006

The minutes of the previous Committee Meeting were unanimously approved as being a true record of the meeting.

3. Progress Reports on Responsibilities Accepted.

3.1 Leaflet drop (RP - 24 Oct 2006, 2.1.1.1).

RP advised the Excom that the requirements for Friends of Pittville (FoP) mass leaflet drop did not coincide with PARA's requirements, either for timing or scope. Therefore PARA were not asked to assist. FoP coverage has already been divided into logical areas with plans indicating the boundaries of each area for delivery.

Pittville estates delivered to St Paul's and Fairview as part of their sponsorship but would be unavailable for the next newsletter, due towards the end of February. More members will be required to assist the next mailing. RP would enquire whether any assistance could be provided by PARA members. **Action RP**

3.2 Web Site (RP – 24 Oct 2006, 2.1.1.3)

The Excom registered its appreciation of the quality of the website.

Some historical information has already been posted on the website and RP hopes to obtain more from Steven Blake, author of "Pittville 1824-1860"

Members are invited to make suggestions for inclusion in the website.

Action ALL

RP advised the Excom that there is likely to be an ongoing cost for the maintenance and hosting of the website after the initial year which has been borne by RP. The Excom thanked RP for his contribution,

and for that of his son. It was agreed that ex gratia payments could be made to Mr Pattinson Jr as appropriate and that all costs incurred in the compilation and maintenance of the web site should be recorded for future off sets in the HLF bid.

Action RP, PW

3.3 Bank Account (PW – 24 Oct 2006, 3.1)

A bank account in the name of Friends of Pittville has been opened by the Treasurer at Barclays Bank, Cheltenham. Excom members were given the details of the account.

The account stands in credit at £510, of which almost exactly half has come from subscriptions and half from sponsorship. (q.v. 3.6)

3.4 Small Grant Application (DH – 24 Oct 2006, 3.2.1)

DH has obtained the relevant document covering the requirements for such a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is now necessary to focus on a suitable project. Restoration / rebuilding the bridge across the Western lake was suggested, as was “New Opportunities” in the Park.

3.5 Young People’s Heritage Grant (DP – 24 Oct 2006, 3.2.2)

As per 3.4, a focus must be decided on before the process can be commenced.

3.6 Sponsors (FC – 24 Oct 2006, 3.3)

FC was thanked for the sponsorship which she had secured despite some difficulties. There were some successes but other potential sponsors adopted a “wait and see” approach. They were possibly willing to support the FoP with goods or services at some point in the future.

FC managed to obtain: £85 from Pittville estates, £50 each from Bush Babies Day Nursery and Hotel on the Park, and £20 from the Spa Retreat pub. TM managed to obtain a further £50 from Constantinou’s Hairdresser.

FC suggested the possibility of using the newsletter to write a short “focus” on a local business in return for sponsorship.

PW is acquainted with the Chief Executive of UCAS and will approach him about providing printing for the next, and possibly future, editions of the newsletter.

Action PW

Use of the website for full scale advertising was also proposed. This was strongly resisted with a small minority being receptive.

3.7 Membership Database (RP – 24 Oct 2006, 4.2)

RP reported that the membership stands currently at 75 subscribing members, of whom all but 12 have an email address for inclusion in the common emailing address for Friends. Those members will be kept informed by quarterly newsletter.

The Chairman mentioned the pre-Xmas discussion on automatic free membership for members of PARA, bearing in mind the extra financial burden of having to pay for two groups. The majority opinion had been against this and the provisions of Paragraph E of the constitution were also highlighted.

3.8 University and Dunally School Liaison (AS – 24 Oct 2006, 4.5.2)

3.8.1 AS reported that his emails had not been answered and suggested he take a more pro-active approach.

DH and DP offered to arrange an introduction for AS with the Chair of the Board of Governors.

Action DH

In addition, AS will contact Fred Warren of PARA, who has close contact with Dunally School.

Action AS

AS will try to arrange a visit to the School wild life area for members of FoP.

Action AS

3.8.2 The University wants to raise its public profile within the community. The Higher Education Academy's Education for Sustainable Development is to hold an event entitled "Embedding Sustainability in the Curriculum via the Community" to give staff the opportunity to discuss recent and proposed project work on the theme of sustainability and meet representatives of some Cheltenham and Gloucestershire communities who are keen to work with staff and students in the future. Members of the Excom were invited and the Chairman volunteered to speak for a few minutes on the aims of the FoP and the bid for Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) monies. Suggestions for student activities included a social survey and a historical project for the area.

Action TM

3.9 Pittville School Liaison (JL – 24 Oct 2006, 4.5.1)

The Chairman read a report from JL, who sent apologies for her absence due to illness. JL has contacted the Chair of the Governors, Christine Sharpe (CS) and queried the educational use of the Park by pupils, which appeared to be minimal. This will be explored further.

Action JL

CS has established a common membership of FoP for the School Pupil Council. An email address for the Council would be an advantage to keep pupils informed.

Action JL

JL also wrote to the Head Teacher about the impending Park Bird watch suggesting pupil participation.

3.10 St Vincent's Liaison (GP – 24 Oct 2006, 4.6.1)

GP was absent from this meeting and a report has not been received.

3.11 Echo Publicity (TM – 24 Oct 2006, 4.7)

TM has now submitted 3 reports with full editorial control of content. He also includes any information passed to him by PARA. As an unexpected bonus, the Echo pays FoP for each report. Additionally, TM is now in communication with Radio Gloucestershire passing details of the activities of FoP and the progress of the HLF bid.

3.12 Notice Board (DP – 24 Oct 2006, 4.7)

The notice board at the Pump Room has not yet been moved to the Play Area. A suggestion was made for another situated at the cafeteria on Central Cross drive.

Action DP

3.13 Mission Statement (GP – 24 Oct 2006, 5.1)

The mission statement, *"To encourage greater public involvement in the restoration, enjoyment and husbandry of Pittville Park, and in so doing support Cheltenham Borough Council in its application for Heritage Lottery Funding"*, is submitted for consideration by the Excom and for possible revision.

Action ALL Excom Members

3.14 Maintenance Subcommittee (DP, DH, DF, PS – 24 Oct 2006)

Minutes from the subcommittee meetings with Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) are held on the Website archives at www.friendsofpittville.org/archive.aspx.

There has been a problem in timely sending of the minutes from these meetings and JC has been requested to investigate.

DF suggested that a more appropriate name for the sub-committee would be the "Preservation and Maintenance Sub-committee" to reflect the involvement of the membership of the Parkwatch. The Chairman tasked the members of the sub-committee to discuss and advise the Excom of their decision.

Action DP, DH, DF, PS

4 Progress of the Application for the Project Development Grant (PDG) to the HLF

The Excom expressed its disappointment that no member of the CBC attended this meeting. Late apologies were received from ARY, RM, and JC.

JC contacted the Secretary by telephone the following day to apologise in person and assured him of attendance at the next Excom meeting; his own absence was due to illness in his family.

It was noted that the initial bid for the PDG had been submitted and acknowledge by HLF. The outcome of this first stage is expected late March.

The Chairman reminded all members of the first three mandatory criteria listed in para 2.3 of the minutes of the meeting with the landscape agency on 30November2006, to be found in the website archive at <http://www.friendsofpittville.org/docs/HLFmeeting20061130.pdf> . The last two are outside FoP remit.

The Chairman also emphasised that the future of this project must be a balance of Renewal and Restoration.

5. Co-operation with PARA

The Chairman has had a useful and informal meeting with the Chairman of PARA. It is the view of FoP that the two organisations are complementary and definitely not competitive.

Ways may be found where the two can assist each other and there is potential for future joint ventures, such as fund raising for projects to enhance the Park.

6. Correspondence Received

Various correspondence has been received by Hon Secretary on topics covering litter, Park security and locking at night, planning issues in Clarence Square, RSPB Bird Watch, and the contentious issue of the future of the Pump Room. The Secretary has replied to all queries received and, where necessary, forwarded to the appropriate agency for attention.

The view of the Ward Councillors is that the depth of feeling being generated about the future administration of the Pump Room is being caused by inaccurate and inflammatory journalism which has little to do with actual fact. A request is being made for the Chairman and Councillors to meet with the CBC Cabinet member with responsibility for the issue on 5th February at 1800. Chairman will report back to the Excom. **Action DH/DP, TM**

7. Heritage Proposals

There was a “brainstorming” session to think of ideas which may be relevant to the long term plans for the Renewal and Restoration of the Pittville area. Some of the ideas covered improvements to the cafeteria, repairs and restoration of the Pittville gates, RT’s plan for landscaping, replanting lost flower beds, improvements to the children’s “pets’ corner”, fountain, water features, enlarging of the underpass, a focus at the western end beyond Tommy Taylor’s Lane, bio-diversity area, and anti-vehicle barriers.

Suggestions for more immediate attention relevant to the Small Grant application and Young People’s Heritage Grant included extending the Junior Ranger scheme.

A proposal by PS, seconded by PW was that the restoration of the bridge over the western lake should be a definite project. This was approved unanimously. This could also be the subject for a fund raising effort in conjunction with a Small Grant Application. **Action DH**

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Young People’s Heritage Grant support should be sought for the Junior Ranger initiative in St Pauls. **Action DH**

8. Future Events

Excom members are to consider suitable ideas for events which could be run to raise funds for the chosen project of restoring the bridge. **Action All Excom members**

9. Fund Raising

FoP should consider ways to combine with PARA to raise funds for a mutually acceptable cause, such as the bridge mentioned above. A Xmas raffle is another responsibility and that would entail looking for prizes from suitable businesses etc. **Action All Excom members**

10. Publicity

TM will continue to write reports for Village Voice in the Echo and maintain contact with BBC Gloucestershire. **Action TM**

11. AOB

None

12. Date of Next Meeting

The date of next meeting was set for Tuesday 10th April 2007

Meeting closed at 21.00

Addendum.

GP was unavoidably detained at another meeting and sent a short report on his contact with St Vincent's Centre. It reads:

"I have paid two visits so far to meet some members of staff. Mr Bonney, chairman of trustees, and I am to pay a further visit on 8th February."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. B. Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "P".

Secretary, Friends of Pittville.