



## **Minutes of Friends of Pittville Executive Committee Meeting – 13 October 2009 Special meeting prior to the AGM on 20 October 2009**

Note abbreviations used in the minutes: FOP = Friends of Pittville; CBC = Cheltenham Borough Council

### **1 Members present**

Hon Chairman Dave Prince (DP)  
Hon Secretary Fiona Clarke (FC)  
Park Watch - Desmond Fitzgerald (DF)  
Ward Cllr. Diane Hibbert (DH)  
Judy Langhorn (JL)  
Ron Pattinson (RP)  
Anne Roberts (AR)

#### **1.1 Apologies**

Hon Treasurer Paul Weston (PW)  
Colin Eynon (CE)  
Ward Cllr. Tim Cooper (TC) – day after the meeting

#### **1.2 Absent**

Daud McDonald (DM)

### **2 Annual General Meeting**

- 2.1** The Hon Chairman explained that he had called this special meeting because of the report on future funding for Pittville Park, which was to be debated at the full Council meeting on 12 October, and the article in the Gloucestershire Echo about this report on 5 October. It was now even more important for the committee to meet because of the withdrawal of this item from the agenda of the Council meeting last night, 12 October.

The Hon Secretary had received an e-mail from Rob Bell (CBC) this morning, 13 October, which included the statement read out at that meeting by the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Councillor Roger Whyborn. It is reproduced here.

After much deliberation the Pittville Report was withdrawn from yesterday's Council meeting. In place of the report Councillor Whyborn read out the following statement;

**"In withdrawing this report I was mindful of the fact that the £300k allocated to Pittville Park was not actually earmarked for spending on Parks and Gardens. It was a contribution to the £1million HLF bid from capital and given that the bid has been unsuccessful should remain in the capital reserve to be re-allocated at budget time when it can be properly evaluated against other priorities.**

**The allocation of capital monies to schemes for parks and green spaces will therefore be carried out as part of the 2010/11 budget setting process, and cabinet expects to bring an up to date report to Council within that context.**

DH had been at the Council meeting and reported that it had been impossible to have any discussion. She will check all the previous documentation on the matter of future funding, and will seek legal advice if it is appropriate to do so.

In the light of this development, the ExComm agreed to invite the Council Member for Sustainability, Roger Whyborn to the AGM to tell Friends what his thinking is on future funding for Pittville Park. If he is unable to attend, DH will make a personal statement at the AGM.

**Action: FC to invite Cllr. Roger Whyborn**

## **2.2 Other items for the agenda**

### *The Community Bridge*

**Action: FC to confirm with Rosemary Mansbridge that she will attend, what she will be bringing, e.g. panels and drawings; and what her requirements are, e.g. LCD projector.**

### *Volunteering in the park*

FC reported on her meeting with Community Ranger Janice Payne on 10 October by the Boat House where the Fishing Club meets. Four boys came and were being instructed on health and safety for themselves and the wildlife by an Environment Agency staff member. Janice hopes she will be the one to come to the AGM but her boss may prefer to do it.

**Action: FC to confirm, as above.**

### *Nominations to the Executive Committee*

FC reported that one new nomination had been received, from Christine Sharpe, who is a governor at Pittville School. All current members, bar one, of the ExComm had completed nomination forms, as required by the Constitution.

Daud McDonald had not sent in a form. FC reported seeing him when delivering the newsletters and discussing that matter with him. He said it might be better if he were the St Pauls Area Residents Association co-opted member.

After some discussion, the majority of ExComm members resolved that his position will be vacated, to take effect at the AGM.

**Action: FC to inform DM, to thank him for his input, and to say that he could rejoin the committee at a later date if he wished to.**

### *Chairman's report*

DP was reminded that he is to prepare a short report.

### *Previous AGM minutes*

Copies will be available for anyone who wishes to consult them at the AGM.

**Action: FC to e-mail them to DP, who will arrange photocopying.**

### *Any other business*

Members may raise other matters not covered by the above agenda. ExComm members were encouraged to revisit the minutes of 4 August meeting where a range of activities which FOP

could become involved with were discussed. These included promotional materials, sponsorship, walks and talks in the park and squares, an event such as Picnic in the Park.

### ***Park Watch***

It was agreed that DF would speak briefly about Park Watch at the AGM, as it was an integral part of FOP. Also, that it would be featured in each newsletter from now on.

**Action: FC to ensure**

### **2.3 Gloucestershire Echo**

FC reported that she had not yet contacted the Glos Echo about an article publicising the AGM.

**Agreed: FC to action**

### **2.4 Refreshments etc.**

AR offered to bring tea towels and black bin liners for rubbish.

### **3. AOB**

The meeting then discussed other things that might come up either at the AGM or are important to address in the future. These included Central Cross Cafe; FOP meeting the Hotel on the Park's owner, who wishes to improve the area around his hotel on Evesham Road; the role of Gloucestershire Highways; inviting the Heritage Officer to an ExComm meeting (not yet actioned after 9 September meeting).

DH reminded ExComm members that the Master Plan prepared for the HLF bid was still valid and should guide our thinking about the future.