

Minutes for 2017 AGM

Some 32 people attended the meeting including 6 members of the Management Committee

Apologies were received from: Brenda McLennan, James Smith, Sue Otty, Fraser Bridgeford, Ben Barker, Kean Lamb, John Hirst and Jack Penrose.

Minutes of the meeting 17 November 2016 (see below) were proposed for adoption by Mike Timmins and seconded by Kathryn Martin

Chairman's Report. Welcome was given to all and in particular to Simon Birch from the Civic Society.

Dennis recorded his thanks and that of the community to a number of people. First, those who had come to speak of their contributions to events in the last year, as below. Second to the Panto committee for their generous support to events in the community not least the tree on the Piazza which commemorates Ray Smith's contribution to this space. Third to offer thanks to both Ray's daughters, to Anna for the excellent interpretation panels now on the Piazza and to Zoe for her continued work towards greening the site. Next Dennis offered thanks to the whole committee for their support and hard work during the year. Particular thanks were expressed to Anna for all her work for HCCA which happens in multifarious ways, Bulletins, website, Piazza, Portway Park and more. Particular thanks were also given to Brenda for looking after our accounts from a distance and for keeping HCCA on the straight and narrow as far as good governance is concerned. Lastly but by no means least in this part of the report Dennis offered thanks on behalf of all to Bob Walton for the enormous amount of work that he has put in to try and secure Avonquay House for the benefit of the community. All members of the steering group deserve our thanks as they have all worked hard for this, but without Bob's leadership it would not have happened at all.

Congratulations again go to residents of Rownham Mead, and in particular to John Bradfield, to the Cliftonwood Town Green and to the Piazza for winning different prizes of varying status at the recent Bristol in Bloom awards. Also very pleasing in the last year is to see that our involvement with the Neighbourhood Partnership has resulted in some 29 new trees in the area. Also with money from the Neighbourhood Partnership the Lion play park has undergone a significant upgrade. Our thanks to Emma Peddie for steering this one through with the help of others in the local community.

This year we recorded a first – holding a hustings for the Metro Mayor – a successful evening with 5 candidates present. Sadly the Chairman reported having to disappoint a number of people as there just was not the time, or the energy, to attempt to get a hustings together for the general election which followed on so quickly.

Dennis recollected that at an AGM some 6 years ago a member of HCCA had encouraged the committee to engage fully with the Neighbourhood Partnership – at that stage in its infancy. Dennis was pleased to report that with the money for the

Lion play park included the HCCA had assisted in securing well over £100,000 for various projects in the area. We intend to stay closely linked with whatever might follow on from the Partnerships. Dennis reported the continuation of the monthly bulletin and asked all present to assist in helping to enlarge the circulation of the bulletin by talking to friends and neighbours.

In the last year we have lost one committee member, Kerry Burton, who moved away to live in Exeter. Dennis then pointed out that Mike Timmin's name does not appear on the list of nominations for next year. Dennis then paid tribute to Mike's huge contribution to the community from the mid 1970s onwards. First as part of and then for many years chairman of the Hope Centre Management Committee and, on the loss of Hope Centre as a member of the HCCA committee. 40 years of service which rightly deserved a strong round of applause. Thank you Mike.

Dennis then turned briefly to the future. Despite the Avonquay setback there are brighter signs as in a good future for Jacobs Well Baths. However, the committee is small in number and simply cannot do all the things that it would like to do and we believe would benefit the community. The committee is embarking on a recruitment campaign, the start of which had been circulated in the form of a leaflet which will shortly be delivered to every house in the area. We need everyone's help in finding people who would be willing to offer some time and skills into what we do. Dennis urged all to assist with this as a failure to recruit new members will put the Community Association in a very difficult position for the future.

Short Reports

Anna Wilson. Anna reported on the Piazza. More greenery, bushes planted around the play area and the beginnings of greening other areas. More artwork on the walls and more people using the space. Working towards better relations with the Council and with Bristol Waste to keep the area clean and tidy and looking to make more of the space green and extend the tarmaced surface to allow more skate space.

Bob Walton. Reported on Avonquay House, which was offered to a private, community interest company. All involved have felt that the City Council have dealt shabbily with HCCA in first agreeing to take the property off the market "specifically" to allow HCCA to develop a sound business plan for its future use as a community centre. This was done to time and a few months later it was discovered others had been invited to bid without our knowledge. A complaint has been lodged and unsatisfactory response given by BCC who have failed to respond to the most recent correspondence. Bob thanked the many hundreds of people who had attended open days and helped give their support. It is with regret that the steering group have decided there is no more that can constructively be done to secure Avonquay House at least at this time.

Heather Watts. Circulated a summary of activities sponsored by Jacobs Well Hub. Craft club, chess club and Tai Chi classes. She and Jerome Thomas also explained the position of Jacobs Well Baths, which is that the recommendation to accept Fusion Lifestyle's bid to regenerate the baths awaits final approval by the City which is expected at the beginning of December.

Richard Hancock. The group continues to meet regularly in the Lion pub in Cliftonwood and support activities which promote the Transition to a more sustainable way of life. These have included; support for Bristol's clean air initiatives, supporting the "Switch the stick" campaign by City to Sea and the campaign to ban microbeads and protesting against fracking and investing in fossil fuels.

Bob Smyth. Bob reported on the most successful yet of Portway Sunday Park days. On 17th September some 7,500 people made use of the peaceful Portway, coming on bikes, scooters, foot and horseback. The involvement of Bristol Rotary had helped to bring in new attractions and it is hoped Rotary will have a significant part to play in future.

Colin Knowles. Reported for the Harbourheads group, which is made up of residents of Avon Crescent, Ashton Avenue and Nova Scotia Place. The group covers some 40 properties and has had an attendance of some 25 people at meetings which demonstrates the cohesion of the community and the level of concerns in the area, particularly around the metro bus developments. There are two focusses of involvement at present: the illegal activities of the Council in relation to planning consent around metrobus operations and developing a good working relationship with the Trustees of the Underfall Yard.

Carol Lilwall. After last year's awards the Town Green was invited to participate in the United Kingdom finals for RHS Britain in Bloom, representing Community for Clifton Village, which proceeded to receive a Silver guilt award, with the Town Green receiving special mention and an RHS Outstanding Award. From Bristol in Bloom there was a Gold Award for Ambra Vale East, Your Street category, and a Large Gold Award and Category Winner in Community Participation. A string of awards for which the community should feel justly proud.

Treasurer's Report. (written by Brenda McLennan and delivered by Dennis Gornall)

Incoming resources for the year to 31st March 2017 totalled £33,836 with expenditure of £35,807. So our net expenditure for the year was £1,971. Total funds held in cash at 31st March 2017 were £26k, down from £28k at 31st March, 2016. At the end of March, we had £22k in unrestricted cash. Unrestricted income included:

- £1,300 net from the 500 Club, after monthly prizes were paid
- A £350 donation from the Cliftonwood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme on its closure
- £390 from notice board and newsletter advertising

We spent £252 on maintaining the noticeboards, and £629 on newsletter printing. Our overheads for the year were £1,033 including insurance of £370 and website rebuild of £417.

Restricted activity included:

- Peaceful Portway - We received £2,256 from Neighbourhood Partnerships and donations of £1,352 including the Hotwells Pantomime, Just Giving and Gift Aid, and were holding £314 as at 31 March 2017.
- We received £15k from Bristol City Council for the Pocket Park and £2,490 MUGA funding for the Piazza project. We were holding £175 of these funds at year end.
- At 31 March 2017 we were holding £820 for the Argyle Place playground fund. During the year this group had another successful open air cinema screening.
- We are also holding £2,420 for the Ambra Vale gardening group who also had a massively successful year with their community gardening projects.
- We are still holding £593 from the now defunct CHASE sub-group. Request was made for ideas as to how this money should be spent. Otherwise, we are considering donating this to Transport for Greater Bristol to help them with their work on Bristol's traffic problems.

Proposal that the accounts be accepted was made by Anna Wilson and seconded by John Bradfield

Election of the Management Committee:

The following persons offered themselves for nomination to the Committee: *Dennis Gornall, Carol Lilwall, Brenda McLennan, Christine Smart, James Smith, Carol Walton, Heather Watts and Anna Wilson.*

Proposed they be elected by Colin Knowles and seconded by Kathryn Martin and passed nem. con.

This ended the formal business of the meeting

Simon Birch, Chairman of Bristol Civic Society, gave an informative presentation. This included a very brief history of the Society which has been in operation since 1905. Civic Society members want to add to the beauty, character and diversity of the city, to revitalise areas and improve the quality of life for all across the city. "We do what we do because we care about the city we live in. We campaign in order to influence how Bristol develops".

Simon then focused on the Society's efforts to save St Michael's on the Mount Without, badly damaged by fire last year. Outline plans have been drawn up and the Society is in discussions with the Diocese. He then turned to the future for Ashton Court. Most people did not know the extent of disrepair that exists within the walls of this building – well over a hundred unusable rooms. The Society's main efforts have been focused on trying to get a detailed scoping report, which was abandoned a few years ago completed and to engage some of the principle players in discussing the future at a meeting to be held later in November. The future of this building is too important to be left just to Bristol City Council because as people in the know within the Council will say "it is just at the bottom of the priority pile".

Simon distributed the Society magazine and invited people who had a concern for the city to join and get involved.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Simon

Open Session.

Question was asked about 20mph limits on Hotwell Road. Dennis explained that the Committee was very aware that this issue was not resolved, and also that of the speed limit on the Portway which was the subject of a petition to the Council. He would be pursuing the relevant officers of the Council for answers and hopefully have some positive news to put in the bulletin soon.

Question was asked as to what we knew of the plans for Cumberland Basin, as referred to in the Mayor's recent speech. Dennis pointed out that reference had been made to this in the latest bulletin and that it was planned to follow up with Councillors, obviously not for consultation at this stage but more for a commitment to involvement in the process, if indeed it comes to anything.

Dennis announced details relating to the Panto for 2018 as follows: Read through 2nd Jan 7.30 Holy Trinity, 1st rehearsal 3rd Jan 8pm venue tbc., rehearsals then Tuesdays 8pm. Two dress rehearsals: Sundays 1pm 18th and 25th Feb at Hope Chapel, Performances Wednesday - Saturday 28th Feb, & 1-3 March 7.30 at Hope Chapel.

There being no further business the meeting closed a little after 9.30