

Minutes for 2016 AGM

35 people attended the meeting including 5 members of the Management Committee

Apologies were received from: Brenda McLennan, Carol Lilwall, Christine Smart, Sue Otty, Lorna Allsop, Sarah Mitchell, Kirstie Buckland, Kerry Burton and Richard Walker

Minutes of the meeting 17 November 2015 were proposed for adoption by Mike Timmins and seconded by John Bradfield.

Chairman's Report. Welcome was given to Matt Jones, the new Neighbourhood Officer for the Partnership.

Dennis started his report by paying tribute to Ray Smith and asked all to consider and let HCCA have ideas for a fitting memorial, as requested in the newsletter. When these are received discussions will take place with the family to decide what we do.

Three new members have been welcomed to the Committee in the year. Kerry Burton, Christine Smart and Heather Watts. Sadly we lost Rachel McNally who was appointed chair of a national puppetry organization in the year and could no longer give of her time. Our thanks go to her for the work she did for us. James and Brenda will be moving away from Bristol but carrying on supporting us from a distance. An urgent appeal was made for all to consider if they know, or know anyone who might know, of a good accountant who can take on that role for HCCA.

Thanks to Amy Hutchings and all her helpers for the excellent mural in the play park in Charles Place and to the Panto Committee for the money to provide this. Money (£55,000) has been secured for improvements in the Lion playpark.

Hustings meetings took place in April for local elections. HCCA will endeavor to provide such meetings for any elections in the future.

Thank you to Henry Ackland for help putting up replacement noticeboards. Those present were asked to consider if there are other places in our area where boards should go. Hopefully all present are recipients of our monthly bulletin. Please spread the word about it so we can increase circulation. Thanks to Anna for all the hard work she has put in to enable the recent newsletter to be published and distributed.

Congratulations were offered to all those who had received awards from Bristol in Bloom and the RHS – and there were quite a few in our area. Special mention was made of the award of the Gordon Ford Trophy to the Cliftonwood Town Green as the best Community Garden in the South West. HCCA would like to assist in spreading brightness and colour and community activity in our area, so if you have ideas get in touch.

The Committee met 5 times in the year and held an open meeting on the Piazza and then in the Rose of Denmark to consult on plans for the Piazza. Our thanks go to

Anna for the huge amount of work she has done there and for her contribution in getting so many more helpers to do even more.

Thank you to Brenda for looking after our accounts and all its subsets so carefully and to everyone else on the committee for their help and support. "We need you and I hope we can find more like you".

Treasurer's Report. (written by Brenda McLennan and delivered by James Smith)

Incoming resources the year to 31st March, 2016 totalled £17,024 with expenditure of £21,908. Net expenditure for the year was £4,866. Total funds at 31st March 2016 were £28k, down from 33k at 31st March, 2015. This is held in cash. At the end of March, we had £25k in unrestricted cash.

Income included:

- £1,600 net from the 500 Club, after monthly prizes were paid
- £315 from notice board advertising

We spent £338 on maintaining the noticeboards, and our overheads for the year were £581 including insurance and subscriptions.

We received £318 from the pantomime for projects, and nearly £14k from Bristol City Council to help with the Piazza, Pocket Park and Community Garden Projects.

At 31 March 2015, we had accrued income of £1k due from Bristol City Council for the Piazza and Pocket Park projects.

We are currently holding £621 for the Argyle Place playground fund. During the year this group had another successful open air cinema screening.

We are also holding £2,429 for the Ambra Vale gardening group who also had a massively successful year with their community gardening projects.

There have been no events after the year end to date that have an impact on these results.

Proposal that the accounts be accepted was made by Bob Walton and seconded by Anna Wilson.

Short Reports

Anna Wilson gave a short illustrated presentation on activities to date on the Piazza. Planting of trees, creation and planting of planters, painting of pillars, creating a skate spot, building a water collection system and creating the pocket park. Much more had happened in the way of consultation, building links with UWE students and just allowing kids to play and use the space. Anna outlined the HCCA plans for the immediate future.

Bob Walton explained that he and others had persuaded the Council to take Avon Quay House off the market and give the community a chance to make the case for this to be a community facility. A very exciting prospect. Two open days had attracted some 400 people many of whom had experienced events that exemplified what might be achieved by such a facility. An interim report had been submitted to BCC as required and had received positive feedback. A grant had been approved by the Neighbourhood Partnership that is allowing a proper feasibility study. A business plan must go to BCC in the new year. The group working on this has grown and co-ordination with and co-operation from HCCA has been very valuable.

Richard Hancock gave a brief overview of the local Transition group. As in previous years they had been supporting the move to a more sustainable way of life. It's got to come, and it is coming. The only question is how fast things can be pushed along. Examples were given of progress at the local, national and international level, including sustainable energy provision, cleaner air and keeping plastic out of the food chains in the oceans.

Bob Smyth reported on Peaceful Portway. 7 events have been held over 2 years by extending existing road closures in place for sporting events on Sundays. A count has recorded 20,000 individual trips during these closures. 2017 has only a single day planned due to concerns over access to Ashton Gate stadium due to a clash of events. Contact has been established with Sea Mills residents who do not benefit from an active community organization. The event requires about £2,000 to run and Bob recorded his thanks to Hotwells Panto committee for riding in as the White Knight to fund the last event, to HCCA for their support and to Anna Wilson for contribution to many aspects of the Peaceful Portway events.

Heather Watts outlined the activities of the Jacob's Well Hub. Campaigning for community access to the Pavilion harbourside building (use it or lose it). This is owned by BCC and now offers the space to community groups at a reasonable fee. Support for the Jacob's Well Baths which had been the dance centre but is now on a short lease to Artspace. Thanks to Neighbourhood funding for start up and noticeboards and to Bristol Ageing Better for funding to support Tai Chi classes and a craft hub.

Election of the Management Committee:

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

Proposed they be elected by Bob Smyth and seconded by Anthea Bruges and passed nem. con.

John Bradfield proposed a vote of thanks to Dennis for his work as Chairman

This ended the formal business of the meeting

Barbara Janke gave a brief talk on the House of Lords and her experience and contribution over the last two years. She amused the meeting with illustrations about

some of the formalities and peculiarities of the Lords, including the fact that for the Queen's speech, for instance, partners who wished to attend could wear tiaras!

On a more serious note she assured those present that a lot of very good work is done in committees, there are many very respected reports produced and of course there is the detailed work on legislation proposed by the Commons. Barbara explained how she tries to be involved with matters that might affect Bristol particularly, issues around the aero- space industry for instance and devolution to regions but also on matters which she had a close link with while on the Council in Bristol.

Barbara dispelled the notion that the position was paid well in explaining that the per diem of £300 had to cover absolutely everything.

Questions and discussion followed before the Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Barbara.

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