

Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by Zoom 7.30pm Monday 9th November 2020

Some 42 people attended the Zoom meeting including 8 members of the Management Committee

Apologies were received from Brenda McLennan and Trish and Doug Hill

Minutes of the meeting 11 November 2019 were proposed for adoption by Liz Leaman and seconded by Carol Lilwall.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report. Dennis Gornall

Dennis read out his report as he wanted to personally say his thankyou's not just write them and to welcome people for attending this special zoom meeting.

As usual his report covers the period from last AGM.

"This has been a strange year as you can all understand but it has also been a heart-warming year for many aspects of community. Support groups have sprung up, neighbours helping neighbours and so on. I am sure we can all play our part to try and ensure that that continues and indeed develops. Ideas would always be welcome.

I was very pleased to have an enlarged committee with new members eager to assist in taking the CA forward. I would like to say a big thank you, in particular, to those who have taken some of the load off my shoulders. Carol Walton now manages our email box, Caroline looks after all noticeboard matters and Norma has done a sterling job in taking on and developing our e-bulletin which is going out in gradually increasing numbers. Gary decided during the year that being on the committee was a commitment too far, but I am very pleased that he agreed to maintain and improve our website, which he has done.

Brenda continues to look after our finances in a very efficient way and our thanks go to her for her ongoing support and work both as company secretary and treasurer. I want also to thank Chris, Heather and Carol Lilwall for their contributions to our work. I want to say a particular thank you to Carol Lilwall, who, for health reasons, is having to step down from our Committee after 5 years. Many of you will know the huge contribution that Carol has made particularly in Cliftonwood in developing and the Town Green, organising community events, supporting mums and mums to be, brightening the local streets etc. etc. Her contribution will go on being felt for many a year yet. Thank you, Carol.

Outside of the committee I must say a special thank you to Anna Wilson who continues to project manage the gradual development of improvements to the Piazza, and amongst other things is therefore helping us fulfil the legacy left to the CA by Ray Smith.

And thank you again to those who look after our noticeboards, which we feel are a vital form of communication for us.

We started the year by taking quite a detailed look at all aspects of what we do and how we do it. Fresh eyes and minds have helped us to refresh our ideas for the website, develop content and style for our e-bulletin, open a facebook page and review the management arrangements with respect to the Piazza. This also led us to decide to commit to a community survey which has just been completed. We will be sharing the outcomes of that survey with everyone we can and using it to inform where we spend our energies over the next year and more.

If we had not had this pandemic some of you might have enjoyed a special visit to Ashton Court Mansion. Hopefully we will be able to offer this and more such visits to places of interest next year. Ideas are always welcome.

We continue to keep a watchful eye on plans for developments in this area. I am doing my best to provide both a constructive and critical contribution to the Western Harbour “plan” through both the Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group and through my involvement with the Western Harbour Advisory Group. I will do my best to keep people posted. More in a moment from my CBSG report but suffice to say I’m convinced that nothing has actually happened and if people feel there is not enough information available then please let us know.

I will finish with 2 pleas to all of you. First to assist us in finding more new members for our committee. Gain some, lose some, is of course the natural course of things. But the truth is for many years now we have never gained enough to feel we can really develop our activities, provide community events and the like, perhaps publish a local magazine again and so on. You will be aware I think that 3 members of our committee do not live in our area and yet they continue to give of their time to this community. I would like your help in finding other folks within our community who would be happy to help build and develop this CA during some or all of the 2020s.

My second plea is for someone to help us research exactly – or as close as we can – the date when the Community Association came into existence. The early 70s is as close as I have got as yet. We are about to move into the early 20s and so we will be celebrating 50 years sometime soon! We should do it in a fulsome fashion and as near to the date as we can.

We shall of course be spreading these pleas on a wider basis, but your help will be much appreciated. Thank you. That concludes my report.”

Activity Reports

Anna Wilson – The Piazza.

A full detailed report had been uploaded onto the HCCA website which included financial information. The report was not read through but extracts of the activities are set out below:

The report sets out Aims for 2020 and Achievements. Maintenance achievements include keeping the space tidy, engaging locals to help watering and installing notice board. Community engagement achievements included 200 people being actively engaged in creative and maintenance activities at the piazza in the following ways: Via arts activities/Meeting and talking with interested people while gardening in the space/Writing, sharing and responding to blog and social media posts about activities and progress.

Just before lockdown (March) we had a couple of community events during which we refreshed all the pillars that needed repainting, began a new mural and maintained the planters. About 30 people came and joined in the activities.

During lockdown - No organised activities but use of the site increased as people were unable to go far. About 50 people a day were using the site to relax, socialise and exercise.

Post Lockdown - Kids Summer Activities with organised pavement art activities held over the summer hols in which we engaged with 20 adults and 30 children.

Independent groups using the space with several exercise classes per week which are really well attended. The Saturday morning one uses the blocks as an ‘outdoor gym’

Anna explained she has wanted to engage more with people but been difficult this year with Covid 19 and the lockdown. Started the year with a painting event and this followed with garden maintenance during lock down. Fortunately, many people were able to use the space and it has been bit of a lifeline to some. She made a little presentation to go with the report. <https://vimeo.com/478110066>

A squatter occupied one of the storerooms which presented a problem, but Anna worked with the Council and they have been successfully moved on and supported.

A question was raised by Liz Leaman about the fitness groups who use the Piazza and whether they are licensed and well organised. Anna explained that Chris Tunstall pays the Council to hold regular fitness classes and believes his and the Saturday morning class are well organised, have the Council's permission and appear to be proper licensed groups.

Sue Otty expressed her thanks to all that achieved by Anna and well done for her hard work which is appreciated! It is great the Piazza is being well used and a very pleasant place to use or walk through. Dennis reported he will be gathering people's responses from the community survey and the community will be updated accordingly.

Carol Lilwall – Cliftonwood Town Green.

"The Community Garden thrived until coronavirus appeared and even since then it has offered a place of tranquillity for many during lockdown. As we emerged from this it has proved an excellent meeting place for many to meet in a socially distanced manner.

Last autumn we sold homemade preserves and cakes in the garden raising enough money to buy plants for the spring.

We held a very successful Halloween barbecue where the estimated approximately 300 people attended, this was great fun.

We have held two working parties in the autumn and several this year. However, we do have more work to do and will be organising groups of 6 to fit in with current Covid restrictions in Bristol.

We were again given a Christmas tree from Brackenwood nursery and held a tree decorating event concluding with mince pies, mulled wine and Carol singing.

In February, we held the traditional pancake Saturday event, the pancakes were raced up and down Ambra Vale East.

We are planning to replace the chippings in the garden and have been given a grant of £450 from the HCCA to do so. We are grateful for this and await the end of leaf fall to begin the work.

The garden is open to all as a place of sanctuary in these difficult times as long as social distancing can be maintained."

Richard Hancock – Local Transition Group.

Richard provided a useful leaflet entitled 'Making the Transition' giving people tips and advice on the actions we can make to give us a healthy future. Topics included:- buying electricity generated from renewables, using less energy, divestment from fossil fuels, eating less meat and sourcing seasonal and local vegetables, avoiding using fossil fuels in our transport especially flying and reduce/reuse / recycle in our shopping habits.

Progress is being made and some positive effects also gained from Covid with less use of transport and improvements to public spaces.

No point waiting for the government so Act Now!

Sign up to the Local Transition mailing list for updates by emailing rit_hancock@yahoo.co.uk

Dennis Gornall – Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group (CBSG)

A report had been uploaded onto the HCCA website. Copy attached below but it was not actually read through:

Established by HCCA in conjunction with Cllr. Mark Wright - 2018

Current membership: 4 Residents, 4 Councillors, 1 Business, 8 Community and other local organisations and 2 others.

Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group (CBSG) met in January 20 and made considerable efforts to meet with Councillor Nicola Beech to discuss engagement, amongst other things. We were completely unsuccessful! Wasted time and energy!

CBSG met again, virtually on 12 October. Main item new plan for engagement from Bristol City Council which will be a “creative arts and meanwhile led process”. This may not exclude traditional meetings but will certainly be a different approach. We will keep everyone posted as best we can as we understand better exactly what is proposed.

We were advised by a senior manager in the Council in August as follows: *“I understand there has been some concerns that plans have progressed on Western Harbour before engagement with communities and stakeholders has taken place. I want to reassure you that this is not the case, we are committed to engaging with local communities, businesses and stakeholders before progressing any plans on Western Harbour and working with you to get your input and guidance along the way.”* This was reassuring

We have continued to have email dialogue with the Mayor to try to ensure our position is clear and our understanding of his position is also clear. All the correspondence can be read on our website timeline.

Many things have changed as a result of Covid. Working practices, travel patterns and volumes, use of office spaces, use of open spaces and many more. All these may influence the thinking in relation to Western Harbour and we shall bear them in mind.

Dennis explained he did not wish to elaborate too much on what has already been reported but only to say he is convinced by BCC officers, who he has spoken too over the past 6 months, that not a lot has happened over the summer since the start of the Covid 19 outbreak. However, the council will be making changes to the way they are communicating with the people, and this is slowly being unveiled.

Dennis made a plea that if people feel there is not enough information being made available by the Council then please contact the HCCA admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk and CBSG and he will provide as much information as he can muster and hopefully things will move forwards but believes not a lot will happen until after the 2021 May Elections are out of the way and then we will see more activity.

Cllr. Paula O'Rourke reported it is great that Dennis Gornall is on the inside of the Western Harbour as being a member of the WH Advisory Group as at least the local community is being represented and has a clear line of communication. In addition, Cllr. O'Rourke explained she is chair of the Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission, and they are pushing for an updated report to be provided by the Council on what's happening. She asked people to email her with any questions that they might have or if they want to see a formal assessment of the current state of affairs, which will help give her more leverage.

Anna Wilson commented that she has spoken to members of the Growth and Regeneration Team about methods of public engagement.

Anna Wilson - Liveable Neighbourhoods

Liveable Neighbourhoods are residential neighbourhoods with traffic filters inside them to stop cars, vans and lorries using the streets as rat-runs. Residents can still drive to their homes, residents and businesses can still get deliveries, and pedestrians and bikes can get through freely. Liveable Neighbourhoods offer huge benefits for elderly and disabled people (and children) as reduced car traffic allows them to move around their neighbourhood safely.

Liveable Neighbourhoods (Bristol) includes a wide range of stakeholders spread across the City. It is not about banning cars but prioritising walking, cycling and other active modes of transport.

In the HCCA area we have 2 groups, Clifton, represented by Julie Milton from Climate Action and Anna Wilson who works closely with H&CCA. It's really easy to sign up- just follow this link <https://liveablebristol.org.uk/>. If you're not a Facebook user you can contact us admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk as we're keen to hear what improvements YOU think would make our neighbourhood more 'liveable'. Over the coming months we will develop ideas and research funding opportunities and council permissions for positive changes to our environment.

The two groups are currently 'closed' Facebook groups due to excessive verbal abuse from car lobbyists.

There is a good network of groups across the city which is good and meetings are arranged for 24 and 27 Nov when they will be deciding next steps forwards.

Dennis explained this is a new initiative for HCCA and Anna has kindly agreed to take the lead for us. He encouraged people to come forwards with any questions or ideas they might have which fit into the principal of developing liveable neighbourhoods. Any ideas for improving a street or a section of streets are all welcome and can act as a catalyst for something else to spin from it. Website to find out more <https://liveablebristol.org.uk/>

HCCA will try to ensure this website gets published more and to keep people informed of any developments. Dennis thanked Anna for her efforts and feels very encouraged about the campaign and that it can make a positive change to our lives.

Treasurer's Report (written by Brenda McLennan & delivered by James Smith as unfortunately Brenda was not well enough to present her report) For the Year ended 31st March 2020.

"Incoming resources the year to 31st March, 2020 totalled £9,951 with expenditure of £9,676. So our net income for the year was £275. At the end of March, we had £17k in unrestricted cash, £12k in designated funds, and £8k in restricted funds for a total of £37k.

Unrestricted income included:

- £892 net from the 500 Club, after monthly prizes were paid, and
- £305 from notice board advertising

Our overheads for the year were £1,959. This included insurance of £387, website expenses of £297, meeting expenses and hall hire of £990 and £285 on admin support.

Restricted and designated funds activity included:

Piazza project - we received £4,660 from Bristol City Council s106 monies and spent £6,558 on activities during the year. This left a balance of £11,317 for ongoing projects and maintenance.

At 31st March 2020 we were holding £708 for the Argyle Place playground fund.

We were holding £639 for the Cliftonwood Town Green Gardening Group who had another successful year with their community gardening projects.

We were also still holding £593 from the now defunct CHASE sub-group, £600 from the Police Transformers Fund, £2,000 for the phone box project, £1,875 from the Neighbourhood Partnership and a £150 donation to Avon Crescent from filming there during the year.

We are also holding the balance of funds for the Jacob Well Community Hub for their ongoing projects – this stood at £2,480 at 31st March.

There have been no events after the year end to date that have an impact on the results to 31st March 2020”.

Dennis clarified a question re the ‘phone box’ project. A proposal was raised by some of the residents who live along the terrace, which runs alongside the Portway (Hotwells Road) to use an old phone box as a community library. This scheme was supported by Bristol City Council and funding of £2,000 given. The project has not proceeded according to plan and the CA will follow up to determine if the money can be used in the spirit in which it was given. If not, it will have to go back to BCC.

The £600, Police Transformers funds relates to a plan to provide exercise bars on the Piazza similar, but smaller in scale, to those at the bottom of Brandon Hill Park. Again, if this money is not going to be used, we may need to return it.

Dennis also explained that the £1,875 we hold from the Neighbourhood Partnership is to facilitate the holding of the Neighbourhood Forum meetings and the like for the benefit of people in the 3 wards of Clifton, Clifton Down and Hotwells and Harbourside.

Thanks were given to Brenda for producing the report which will now go to Companies House and the Charities Commission. Proposal that the accounts be accepted was made by John Bradfield and seconded by Anna Wilson.

Election of the Management Committee:

The following persons offered themselves for nomination to the Committee: *Dennis Gornall, Caroline Grazebrook, Norma Innes, Brenda McLennan, Christine Smart, James Smith, Carol Walton and Heather Watts*

Proposed they be elected by Robert Smyth and seconded by John Bradfield

Dennis repeated his plea for new people to come forward and join the committee and they could either raise their hands or contact him afterwards. Unfortunately, no hands were raised during the meeting.

John Bradfield invited other attendees to raise their hands and give a wave in offering their thanks to the committee members for the works carried out this past year.

This ended the formal business of the meeting

OPEN SESSION

Caravan Park

A question was asked about the current situation regarding the caravan park and the proposal to submit a planning application for housing on the site and whether it will act as a precedent for the Western Harbour site. Concern that the pre application process seemed to happen very quickly and not sure how many people managed to make their comments.

Cllr. Mark Wright reported that people can still submit their comments on the Caravan site - see BCC website (planning section) as they can still inform on what is being proposed. He also believes that there is still a lot of time left for the Western Harbour Masterplan to be produced and so there will be

plenty of opportunities for the public to be heard. A question was asked about the number of affordable homes being provided and Cllr. Wright confirmed this was understood to be 40% which is policy compliant.

Cllr. Paula O'Rourke also commented that, in her opinion, many of the people who used the Caravan site were construction workers and so not as many visitors to Bristol as might have been thought. However, the loss of 72 (?) trees which need to be taken down is still a concern.

Riverside

Another question was raised about the riverside walks, flooding issues and when was the 'chocolate path' going to be fixed. Cllr. Wright reported that the path is not due to be fixed until end of 2021 since an 18 months commitment was given for the timescale. Cllr. O'Rourke also reported that there has been a lot of scrutiny given to the harbourside walls/walks.

Community Survey

Carol Lilwall asked if there was any feedback from the recent community survey undertaken. Dennis responded that to date we have received 263 forms and we will report back to the community as soon as they have been evaluated.