

Friends of St Andrew's Park.
Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 11th April 2017.

1. Chair's welcome. Attendees: Mary Welsh, Kevin Coughlan, Sarah McMurchie, Jenny Morris, Jenny Broe, Dennis Broe, Tom Morison, Mark Howard, Cncllr Carole Johnson, Ken Dolbear, Lynn Maddern, Martin Weitz, Richard Howell, Rachel Howell, Steve Pugh, Alex Mills, Sheri Malik, David Buler [?], Cllr Jude English, Fay Aldridge, Sarah Cemlyn, David Cemlyn, Jon Gulson, Linda Geddes, Agnes McMahon, John Wherlock, Helen Buglass, Simon Miller, Jonny Gibson, Maija Lawrence, Paul Bullivant [secretary], John Mayne [chair], Steve Perry [treasurer/minute taker]. The Chair thanked Cllrs Jude English and Carole Johnson for attending the meeting

2 Apologies: Doug Reid, Cath Delor, Kevin Reece, Jo Corke, Beryl Sanderson.

3. Minutes of previous AGM : Approved.

4. Chair's Annual report [*paper attached to Agenda*]. No comments.

5. Treasurer's report [*paper attached to Agenda*]. No comments

6. 2016/17 achievements and 2017/18 priorities [*paper attached to Agenda*]. No comments. It should be noted that the proposed FoSAP priorities for the coming year, the continued use and proper maintenance of Park facilities, was the main focus for discussion in the meeting which immediately followed the AGM.

7. Election of Posts [Chair, Secretary, Treasurer]. John advised the meeting that he, Paul and Steve, who between them had occupied these posts for over 17 years, would be willing to continue in post for up to one more year, but intended to stand down by the time of the next AGM . It was hoped that other members of FoSAP would, in the meantime, be willing to consider taking on these posts. John, Paul and Steve would be willing to give help and support during this transition.

8. Ammendment to Constitution [*paper attached to Agenda*]. The proposed changes related to the protocol for contact with Bristol city council, and was duly agreed.

FoSAP Committee Meeting 11th April 2017.

Appointment of Convenors; All agreed to stand for another year, with the exception of Alex Mills who indicated that she wishes to stand down from the position of Social/ Arts convenor after the Pantaloon's performance on the 25th June [see item 4.3 below]

1. Chair's Welcome . Attendees: As per AGM above.

2. Apologies. As per AGM above.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting [1st March 2017]. Approved.

4. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.

4.1 Replacement trees. Two trees on the Maurice Rd boundary had been felled by the city council. One was replaced as a sponsored tree, but we are still awaiting the second to be planted, to be funded by the Neighbourhood Partnership.

4.2 Repair/ replacement of damaged table tennis table. Following a discussion between Sarah C. and Jacq Abraham from the city council, it seems that there is a possible replacement to be found [currently little used] in Hengrove Park. Jacq will look into further and see what the costs would be to effect the repair/ replacement.

4.3 Proposed performance in the Park of a Midsummer Night's Dream by the Pantomime theatre company on 25th June 2017, commencing at 7.00pm. Paul reminded the meeting of this major summer park event and, in addition to being well supported by FoSAP members, would be seeking help from a dozen or so volunteers on the day to help manage the event, and hoped he could rely on members support. There was discussion about access to the Pantomime website and payment through Paypal, and Paul also reminded everyone that payment could also be made to him.

5. Chair's report.

5.1-5.4 These items focused on the **great concerns over maintenance** of the Park in the context of the major budget cuts being imposed by the Government on local authorities. The involvement of local city councillors was important in trying to minimise the impact of these. Cllr Mike Davies had attended a recent meeting, and John welcomed Cllrs Carole Johnson and Jude English. Carole indicated that the process to see the degree to which Parks could eventually be " budget neutral" was underway, and a report to the Neighbourhood Scrutiny Group [of which she was vice Chair] would be considering the initial ideas and implications at its meeting on the 24th April. Making representations to this Group was still possible.

Many points were made by the meeting, including the huge popularity of **Bristol's only paddling pool** and the great concerns if it were not to open over weekends, the health and well being implications of **closing the toilets at 3,00pm** in one of the Bristol's busiest parks, and the dire, possibly costly, implications of not carrying out proper **rubbish collections** seven days a week.

Re the paddling pool, the good news was that the annual re-waterproofing had just been carried out, and the pool should be ready to open on the 1st May, as usual. John referred to a letter from Richard Fletcher, the senior Parks Manager, who understood the very real concerns that the pool may not be able open at weekends because of the city council's overtime ban, and was "optimistic" that a solution could be found, but it is still too early to say.

Re the problem with weekend rubbish collection and early closure of toilets, there seemed to be no immediate solution in sight. Carol indicated that the concerns would be made clear at the 24th April meeting, but Jude reiterated the fact that the financial problems for the city council were immense and would probably only get more drastic over the next couple of years ---in other words, a solution for this year may well not be able to be sustained in future years.

Given the inadequate rubbish collection over the last few weekends, John would be in contact with Mickey, the park keeper, about the possibility of getting more temporary bins in place to at least reduce the spread of rubbish across the park, while the issue of weekend collections was being sorted out

Discussions then turned to **alternative possible solutions**, including setting

up a trust to manage certain/ all facilities, crowd funding budget shortcomings to enable the Park to still properly function , and/or developing a way in which local volunteers could help "fill the gaps". Although there were some concerns about the council not meeting its responsibilities, Jude reminded the meeting that there was no statutory obligation to maintain parks, unlike certain other council functions . However, it was understood that the savings by the council of reducing these locally important facilities/services, would be relatively small and disproportionate to their impacts on the community.

If the council did continue to reduce funding for these facilities, there were many positive thoughts about greater community involvement, but it was essential that the council should take a positive role in advising how this could be made to happen [--eg, appropriate training for volunteers]. The councillors would look into this and report back as soon as possible.

5.5 Accident at the main Effingham Rd entrance on 2nd April. A young person was, sadly, injured when knocked over by a car as he skateboarded[?] out of the entrance and across the road. It was witnessed by a local resident and is currently being investigated by the city council. Fay indicated that the gates between the park and main entrance had been closed at the time.

6. Report from Teija Ahjokoski [Bristol city council] [paper attached to Agenda]. These items were noted, and it is understood that further discussion will take place about the detail of this year's meadow planting in the area opposite Leopold Rd.

7 Communication with public. Deferred to the next meeting.

8. Convenor's reports. Nothing to report.

9. Treasurer's report. Nothing to report.

10 Secretary's report. Nothing to report.

11 Neighbourhood Partnership. Nothing to report.

12. AOB. Nothing to report.

Steve P 12/4/17