

**Minutes of FoHP  
7.30, 10 Oct 2018**

<b>1</b>	<b>Present :</b> MB, IC, HF, IH, SM, ET, JV	
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes:</b> Approved	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Matters Arising:</b>	
	EJ has resigned from the committee. HF is to send a note of thanks for her work and helpful comments and hopes that she will continue to participate in the Friends' activities.	
<b>3</b>	<b>WEB Report</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	HF to update the web site..... Help needed circulate requirement to members	<b>HF</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Spelling check</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Functionality check</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Finance Report: ICC</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	£2685 in the bank	
<b>5</b>	<b>Membership: IH</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	33 have renewed their membership ICC has had contact with 15 more making 48	
<b>5.2</b>	Membership form is to be put on the web site. Reminder to be sent out with alternative methods of payment outlined	<b>HF</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Council Liaison : MB</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	Jeremy Dymond has thanked us for all our hard work. HF has sent a note thanking him for his hard work in the gardens on the Work and Play day	
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Gardening:</b>	
<b>6.2.1</b>	<b>Council Team:</b> Tackled more of the Snowberry bed. FoHP to complete job	
<b>6.2.2</b>	<b>Pruning</b> of Parrottia (and others) to be agreed. Plan for removal of laurels	<b>MB, HF</b>
<b>6.2.2</b>	<b>Gardening calendar:</b> for the park, and assign tasks to teams throughout the year still to be planned. Share with the council.	<b>HF, ET MB</b>
<b>6.2.3</b>	<b>CURRENT PRIORITIES:</b> gardening programme continuing with parks department cooperation.	
<b>6.2.4</b>	<b>Compost :</b> We can use the compost in the compost compound as and when needed	
<b>6.2.5</b>	<b>Lavender and Rosemary:</b> replaced by council, watered by FoHP.	
<b>6.2.6</b>	<b>Woodland Garden:</b> Henrietta Road Entrance. Proposal : 1 non flowering <i>Eleagnus</i> to be removed, 2 to be planted in the gap on the eastern side. Dying shrubs to be cleared. Plants have been suggested from the following list where possible ( liaison with Jane)	

	<p>Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>  Lilly of the Valley <i>Convallaria majalis</i>  Lesser Celandine, <i>Ficaria verna</i>  Primrose, <i>Primula vulgaris</i>  Snowdrop, <i>Glanthus nivalis</i>  Wood Anemone, <i>Anemone nemorosa</i>  Wood sorrel, <i>Oxalis acetosella</i>  Hellebore (many kinds) Christmas rose, <i>Helleborus niger</i>  Wild Daffodils, <i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>  Wild Violets, <i>Viola odorata</i>  Wood anemone, <i>Anemone nemorosa</i></p> <p>HF pointed out we could use Foxglove, <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>, in other contexts in the park.</p>	
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Bird Boxes;</b> 4 boxes and 3 roosting pouches purchased. We have permission to use a step ladder and aluminium nails with the appropriate care and safety. IH is ladder trained.	<b>HF IH, HF, ICC</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Noticeboard.</b> Much visited. HF to add and change as necessary. Rear surface needs painting, JD to supply primer	<b>HF, JD</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Welcome notice Board:</b> Tree plan in place (MB to thank JD).	<b>MB</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Heritage noticeboard:</b> tidied up (IH) and will be replaced when heritage department is ready . Used for advertising weddings etc. ( MB to discuss with council)	<b>IH, MB</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Tree survey:</b> to be completed next year 2014 measurements on the Tree Register.	<b>ET, HF.</b>
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Sunderland street entrance:</b> compost and tidy up.	<b>HF.</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Park Furniture :</b> drinking fountain, sundial, Memorial Garden pond fountain, benches, bins.	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Pergola and seat maintenance :</b> Is there regular mainenance programme for benches ?	<b>HF MB</b>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>Sundial:</b> Parts found by Jane Robson: restoration to be investigated IH HF MB, ICC to meet before sunday's gardening	<b>MB</b>
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Water fountain project :</b> IH pursuing	<b>IH</b>
<b>7.4</b>	<b>Gargoyle</b> David Carr contacted and MB HF, to arrange a visit to see gargoyle in place	<b>MB HF</b>
<b>7.5</b>	<b>Litter Bins:</b> One litter bin is still missing. Could a replacement bin be put near the Sunderland Street Entrance.	<b>MB</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Report from the Chair</b> 2 Oct 2018	
<b>8.1</b>	<b>Work and Play:</b> A successful event in that the children enjoyed it and the adults achieved a lot to improve the entrance to the Park and the removal of the snowberry bed within the Memorial Garden. I would particularly like to mention the Timothy Family, and Mayveen and team on the rail painting, the Wansdyke	

	<p>Play Team and Jeremy Dymond who matted vigorously for most of the afternoon. However there were too few people at the event to make it thoroughly worth while. Financially we made a small profit.</p> <p>Possible reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Timing of the event in the year.</li> <li>2: Timing of the leafleting.</li> <li>3: the nature of the event itself - too few children in the area</li> <li>4: Was contact with the schools effective.....?</li> </ol> <p>However we did enrol 5 new members, one of whom has recently attended a Litter and Gardening Sunday, one new volunteer from the University, and the Work on the History of the Park was praised by a visitor from the Royal Crescent.</p>	
<p><b>8.2</b></p>	<p><b>Tents and Drugs:</b></p> <p>As you know we have had a tent for the last couple of weeks. The occupants have changed as it was a middle aged lady with a wheeled case, now it is a young couple who when challenged said that they were staying there until the council housed them. A chat with the police (who we met one night after finding a tent in the memorial garden) revealed that they talk to these people, they “know who they are” but profess to have no powers to move them on.</p> <p>The weekend of 29, 30 Sept. the tent was found to be open and unoccupied and a casual glance revealed a number of needles and drug paraphenalia. Because of the danger this presented to the general public, children in particular it was decided to photograph, clear this up and store in a locked place. The police and council were contacted, and the cleansing team came round on Tuesday and removed the items.</p> <p>Subsequently Mayveen has contacted the Police and we now have contact with our local police, together with an Intelligence officer. At litter picking this week a further number of drug related items were collected and photographed.</p> <p>We have been reminded that evidence, (with time, place, and photographs) is most important and not to rely on uncorroborated reports. IH will receive photographs of drug equipment found in the park to build up a dossier, and is in contact with PERA, FOBRA and others to tackle this further, as this is an issue that is wider than Henretta Park.</p> <p>The exact nature of the law regarding the council obligations with regards to the use of Class A drugs, towards campers in the Parks and their duty of care safeguarding the members of the public and their responsibilities with the Public Toilets is not known.</p> <p>The Committee and near neighbours can now use mobile numbers and contact the Police with evidence.</p>	
<p><b>8.3</b></p>	<p><b>Miscellany</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Had a chat with a passing Australian environmentalist and entrepreneur</li> </ol>	

	in his late 20s who just loved the park and was very knowledgeable about the battles with councils and big business as he has to deal with similar things in Australia where heritage is being redeveloped by Chinese backed businesses for money for the council. 2: Note on Champion trees and photos from the Work and Play day have gone up on the noticeboard.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Further Activities</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Carol Singing : 19 Dec.</b> Tights, jam jars etc to be collected by all..... permission for the Event to be arranged with Council. List of favourite carols to be prepared. Song sheets and Oxford Carol books to be used. HF's choir in agreement.	<b>HF</b>
<b>10</b>	Reminder to all to put in volunteer hours.	
<b>AOB</b>		
<b>11.1</b>	<b>Heritage lottery funded projects</b> : HF to contact IH and Tony Crouch and BANES World Heritage committee for project support for noticeboards, trails, water fountains as part of Spas of Europe project.	<b>HF IH</b>
<b>11.2</b>	<b>Broken Bench:</b> Will be replaced with help from Lavinia	<b>MB</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Next Meeting : Tuesday, Dec 4, 7.30 pm, Location TBC</b>	

## Appendix:

### FRIENDS GROUPS AFTERNOON TEA WITH THE COUNCIL

The BANES Parks Department invited members of different Friends groups in the area to afternoon tea and a chat at the Botanical Gardens on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Mayveen Blackwell (Council Liaison) and Ian Critchley (Treasurer) attended as representatives of the Friends of Henrietta Park.

The aim was to discuss issues common to all groups, to exchange ideas, and generally to help promote the formation and development of Friends groups in Bath and NE Somerset.

There were representatives from **Avon Valley Country Park** (between Keynsham and Saltford), **Sydney Gardens**, **Hedgemoad Park**, and **Bath Women's Institute** – creators of the island vegetable border in the Botanical Gardens – as well as **Henrietta Park**. Other Friends groups such as Alexandra

Park and Bloomfield Road Green Space were invited but unable to attend the meeting.

**Jane Robson** (Parks Manager) and **Jeremy Dymond** (Play and Community Development Officer) represented the Council.

It was very interesting to hear how each group had been set up, general issues that relate to all, and specific issues relevant to individual groups – for example the Avon Valley Country Park has some regular visitors riding horses, which sometimes stray off the bridle paths and trample wild flower areas!

Hedgemoor Park has many things in common with Henrietta. It is in the early stages of forming a group, and would like to have further discussions with us about ways of engaging the neighbourhood in events and volunteering.

The Council staff for their part explained how constant budget cuts in recent years have led to significantly smaller numbers of staff working in the parks and green spaces, resulting in having to concentrate their efforts in fewer areas. They very much welcome the setting up of Friends groups to involve the community in work that complements what the Council is able to do, and wish to support us all where possible.

Contact addresses were exchanged and we all hope this will lead to better understandings of how to take our involvements forward. Everyone was very positive and it is clear there is a great feeling of pride in the district's beautiful parks.