

Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Holy Trinity Church, Hotwells, Bristol 7.30pm Monday 8th November 2021

40 people were registered attendees, this included 7 members of the Management Committee

Apologies were received from Patricia Fung, Katherine Martin, Alastair Sawday, Rachel Meoran, Carol Lilwall, Chris Ford.

Meeting arrangements – Dennis Gornall

Dennis requested that if anyone showed signs of Covid in the coming week this should be reported to HCCA so that attendees could be advised.

Minutes of the meeting 9th of November 2020 were proposed for adoption by Christine Smart and seconded by John Bradfield.

REPORTS Chairman's Report. Dennis Gornall

Dennis read his report and emphasised the following. A strange year because of the pandemic but fruitful results from the survey included 3 new committee members, volunteers for path and graffiti work and a successful ad (on a notice board) for a new editor for the bulletin.

Dennis extended his thanks to all who have helped, in so many ways over his tenure as Chairman during the last 15 years

Dennis then took the liberty of reflecting on some of the achievements made in this time, under his watch but almost entirely made by others in the community. High points mentioned included: Upgrades to playparks (2007, 2013 and 2017), launch of the West Bristol Arts Trail (2008), Samuel Plimsoll bust rescued and erected on the harbourside (2010), First Hustings (2012), start of Piazza developments with tree planting (2014), start of the e-bulletin (2015) and the Community survey (2020).

Dennis finished, firstly, by asking everyone to support the HCCA in whatever way you can, including always being on the lookout for those who might serve on the committee. Secondly by confirming that after last year's AGM he had found out, with some authority, that the CA had started in March 1974. There is therefore a celebration to work towards in 2024!

Dennis repeated his thanks to all and wished the future committee "Good Luck"

John Bradfield asked the meeting to show their appreciation of the work that Dennis had done over the years.

Activity Reports

Anna Wilson – The Piazza.

The Piazza highlights this year: 2x new murals, skate park equipment, Wellbeing Festival and flourishing planters without weed killer from Council!

2021 aims – included, producing community event, engagement via social media, locals helping with gardening throughout the year. Keeping good communications with Bristol Waste, litter picking.

Estimated up to 500 people have been engaged in various ways.

March to July – skate ramps removed, £900 received in crowdfunding (including £300 from Johnny Palmer), £3k worth of equipment there now. 5 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers helped one evening per week, litter picking etc

Wellbeing Festival – Very hot day, day before Covid restrictions lifted, volunteers led, local band, Bob the Poet, HCCA Committee,

Summer – kids activities Anna and Mairi (who is now in Scotland)
£500 secured from Hotwells Panto to repair Mural of the suspension bridge, Luke will do as soon as time allows.
Independent groups, musicians, exercise groups all using the space.

Plans for 2022

- Another festival for the site; Regular gardening, appeal for ideas how to organise this
Uncertainty remains while the Council is deciding on the use of the space. More planning can be done over and above maintain and one event. Some of Ray's legacy money left but will need to fundraise soon. Ideas always welcome.

Dennis Gornall – Cliftonwood Town Green.

Carol Lilwall sent her apologies, so Dennis read out her report, summarised as follows

A haven of peace during last year's lockdown. Meeting place for socially distanced outdoor meetings where residents can enjoy nature in the heart of our community.

In the Spring a vegetable garden was created with beans, courgettes, and tomatoes amongst herbs and geraniums. Summer saw steps replaced and green roof improvement.

Attempts to tempt hedgehogs to use the area were unsuccessful! (As far as we know).

Ambra Little Library was established in the summerhouse where there is now a selection of both adult and children's books for use and exchange. There are plans to use the noticeboard in the summerhouse to list recommended tradespeople.

Participated in Clifton's Green Squares and Secret Gardens, and given £80 as a share of the profits. With this money, we purchased a fire bowl for use in the garden, only under supervision.

Anyone interested in assisting with the garden should contact Carol, Lilwall

carol.lilwall@gmail.com

Dennis reiterated that HCCA is pleased to support and noted the amount of work undertaken and offered his thanks to Carol and her team.

Richard Hancock – Local Transition Group.

Richard explained that activities had been the same as in previous years, looking at how our carbon footprint can be reduced and engaging with local and national government. Details were all in his report. Special reference was made to Fi Radford's Ted video "What did you do in the climate crisis Grandma". Those interested to learn more can contact Richard at rjt_hancock@yahoo.co.uk

Dennis confirmed Richard's and others' reports are on the website.

Paths Volunteers: Hazel Streeter; Graffiti Volunteers: Caroline Grazebrook

Hazel - has been helping to organise Volunteers to help keep lanes and steps clear of leaves and other items, in order to keep safe and tidy. Call for volunteers led to some local teams being formed who attend to lanes often as they can. There is always more to do, so more volunteers always required.

Caroline – reported about graffiti cleaning. Arose from the Community survey identifying graffiti as being a nuisance. Bristol Waste, who work on behalf of Bristol City Council, are not able to address all graffiti in Bristol and welcome help from community groups. HCCA has, with the help of a group of local volunteers, set up a street cleaning team and a total of 8 volunteers have now been trained by the Council on how to safely use the cleaning equipment. Operational now for about 5 months their work concentrates on removing tags from street signs, parking meters, utility boxes and lamp posts etc. Now starting to paint over tagging which can't easily be removed by chemicals. We have been concentrating along Hotwell Road and the Harbourside area to include the residential roads which lead up to Clifton and Cliftonwood. We appear to keep on top of the smaller tags however, there is an increase in the larger graffiti tags or art works, which require specialists (Bristol Waste) to remove. If you see any graffiti, then it can be reported to the Council through their website or contact HCCA. The Council also encourage people to report graffiti to the police and full details are on their website.

Volunteers can be easily seen as they are wearing hi-vis HCCA vests, so if you wish to support them, please say hello and cheer them on. If you would like to find out more or wish to join the group in cleaning up our streets, then please contact us.

We would like to express a big thank you for what the volunteers have achieved to date.

Dennis Gornall – Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group (CBSG)

Group established in 2018. Membership fluctuated, this year mostly 4 local members, 5 councillors, 2 local business and 5 others specialists. 3 Zoom meetings, Covid spoilt planned walk arounds. Concern raised that their Engagement Brief excluded HCCA. CBSG remains concerned that focus on city wide engagement might mean compromising local engagement (North and South of the river). Dennis encourages engagement with the process via the Harbour Hopes website, where individuals can make their thoughts known. HCCA want to hear from you to regards your desires ref the Western Harbour.

Dennis and Carol Walton remain on the group and encourage contact from the community.

Sandra mentioned today's Harbour Hopes e-mail announcing walks to help craft ideas an event on 20/11 and an interactive exhibition from then to 19/12 at the Create Centre

In response to a question Dennis confirmed that the Western Harbour Advisory Group had been very inactive since the start of the engagement process.

Treasurer's Report (written by Brenda McLennan delivered by Dennis as unfortunately Brenda was not able to Zoom in to present her report) **For the Year ended 31st March 2021.**

Incoming resources for the year totalled £934 with expenditure of £5,422. Net expenditure of £4,488 Unrestricted income included £843 from 500 club and £85 from notice board adverts.

Overheads were £1,707 including £387 insurance, survey expense £737, and £300 for PPE purchases. Also a donation of £224 was made to Hotwells Primary for laptops.

Restricted and designated funds activity included:

- Piazza project £2,468, leaving a balance of £8,849 in the fund. At 31/3/21 we were holding £708 for Argyle Place playground, £584 for the Cliftonwood Town Green Gardening Group.
- Still holding £593 from the defunct CHASE group, £600 from Police Transformers Fund, £2,000 for a phone box project £1,875 for the Neighbourhood Forum and £150 donation for filming on Avon Crescent. We also hold the balance for the Jacobs Well Community Hub for ongoing projects, standing at £1,288.
- There have been no events after March 31st which would have had an impact to report.

Dennis explained Police Transformers fund came in 4 years ago based on enthusiasm of one person to provide exercise bars on the Piazza. However this individual has gone out of contact, so money will go towards skate park work, in substitution, now approved by the Council.

Also the £2k on phone box project to have library on end of St Vincent's Parade. The person leading the initiative is discussing with us, but not yet claimed money.

There were no questions. Anna Haydock-Wilson proposed accounts be accepted and Heather Anne Watts seconded.

Election of the Management Committee:

Dennis read out the following names from the nomination list:

Anna Haydock-Wilson, Brenda McLennan, Carol Walton, Christine Smart, Damian Rooney, Hazel Streeter, Heather Watts, James Smith, Paul Ville, Rachel McNally, Sandra Fryer

Dennis proposed these persons be elected and this was seconded by Colin Knowles

This ended the formal business of the meeting

OPEN SESSION

Lesley Woodward Reported what fun volunteering was as people stop and talk. She suggested that a little card should be made available with all the core information on that could be handed to people for information. The suggestion was noted.

She also raised concerns regarding significant vegetation, young trees etc growing in walls that could cause a destabilising effect. Dennis suggested that photos and details be supplied to Hazel Streeter to allow reporting and hopefully resolution. Dennis also asked that work be done to get rid of overhanging greenery that blocks street lights on the steps.

Bob Walton mentioned the problem with the Church Lane/Mardyke steps, as mentioned in the November bulletin. Dennis suggested that the issue of increased damage due to neglect while closed be raised with Councillors.

A member of the audience asked

What is the future of organisation, with Dennis going and what does the future hold financially?

Dennis responded by explaining how different the organisation is since the days of an office and Hope Centre and funding since roughly 2005. Without a physical space to provide community activities it has made it more difficult. Brenda has, as she would say, squirreled money away when we had the chance, lucky to get a legacy from Ray Smith. Dennis reiterated that recruitment of volunteers and the community survey has helped. Also continuing to support other groups in the locality and their activities (eg Harbourheads group, open air cinema, Cliftonwood Town Green, Jacob's Well Hub) and there will be more that can be assisted, like the recent first Hotwells Literary Festival, which it is hoped will continue. Ideas for HCCA are always welcome, but HCCA can continue to support other organisations and their initiatives that helps the community.

Anna Haydock Wilson pointed out that there are normally more opportunities to apply for and gain funding and this is likely to be possible again, but obviously more difficult without a building to focus income generation on.

Dennis closed official part of the meeting.

After a break the meeting heard from Geoff Wallis from Brunel's other Bridge project who gave a very interesting presentation on the buildings and structures around the proposed Western Harbour. Geoff left the meeting with plenty to think about in ensuring the preservation of the rich heritage of the area.