



The Friends of Churchill Gardens

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST JUNE 2022

Minutes of last meeting accepted as true record. JM amended agenda as below.

Present - Jack Maguire (Chair), Kelly Longrigg (Vice Chair), Sam Cutler (Member), Adam Playfair (Treasurer), Zoe Keeping (Member) and Reece Dougall (Member).

1. **Apologies** - Sophie Pope (Secretary)
2. **Minutes of last meeting** - accepted as true record. JM amended agenda as below.#
3. **Matters arising** -

JM has emailed Stuart Best, Waste and Cleansing Manager at BCP Council. Awaiting design of new bin signage before new communal bins can be installed.

JM questioned if there was a need to amend the constitution to reflect the decision to make Committee Meetings closed to members. Agreed that there was no need to amend as the constitution does not currently say anything about Committee meetings being open to members. Members get to see the agenda and minutes of all meetings and no members have commented on the decision made at last month's committee meeting.

JM has received two nominations to the Committee. Katerina and Nick. ZK confirmed that KS is a signed up member. NC is yet to join as a member but has been given a paper membership form and emailed the link. ZK to follow up. There are currently 2 vacancies on the committee. Agreed we would seek to fill these vacancies at the General Members Meeting on Tuesday 19th July 2022 when KS and NC would have the opportunity to self nominate. Nominations would need to be seconded and nominees would need to explain what they can bring to the committee. Members can then vote to approve or contest the election.

AP has spoken with Cllr Jane Kelly regarding the proposal to close off Borthwick Road. Suggestion to collate evidence of people speeding. Not allowed to collect number plates. AP

has been recording vehicles speeding along Borthwick Lane. Discussed benefits of closing off Borthwick Road entrance from Palmerston Road including stopping fly tipping. Bollards could be installed that could easily be removed to allow access for emergency vehicles. AP to update members at the July General Members Meeting to get more information and support for this proposal to take back to Cllr Jane Kelly.

4. Treasurer Report -

AP confirmed that the process of seeing up a new bank account with NatWest is underway. Natwest will have emailed all officers for verification documentation.

ZK purchased charity collection boxes that were put out at our Jubilee Celebration event in Churchill Gardens. Donations were received but not counted as yet. ZK will pass collection boxes to AP for safe keeping for the time being.

JM referred to a grant finding website. ZK will follow up. ZK advised of various funding alerts for charities and community groups.

5. General Members Meeting -

General Members Meeting confirmed to take place on Tuesday 19th July 2022 6pm-7:30pm in the form of a bring and share community meal. Committee members acknowledged the importance of making general meetings welcoming for members whilst also dealing with the business side of things. The aim of this meeting is to provide the Committee with an opportunity to update members on what we have achieved so far, look at our future plan of work and activities, fill current vacancies on the committee and agree to any necessary changes to the constitution.

Agreed that the committee would need to meet in preparation for the General Members Meeting to prepare some form of presentation.

Members will have the opportunity to put forward items for discussion. In accordance with the constitution members will have until 4th July 2022 to submit proposals. Any proposals will need to be seconded (or supported) by another member to then be voted on at the General Members Meeting on 19th July 2022.

The Constitution states that the Committee must meet no less than 12 times per year. Agreed that this can include committee meetings, general meetings and the AGM. The next AGM will take place in June 2023 in accordance with the constitution. At this point the current committee will resign and a new committee will be elected.

Provisional Meeting Dates:

Committee Meetings (closed to members):- Tuesday 11th October 2022, Tuesday 8th November 2022, Tuesday 31st January, Tuesday 28th February 2023, Tuesday 25th April 2023, Tuesday 23rd May 2023 (*subject to change and noted that additional meetings would need to be scheduled in order to prepare for General Members Meetings and events*).

Special General Members Meeting:-

Tuesday 19th July 2022 6-7:30pm (*in place of an AGM as the committee was only elected in March 2022*).

General Members Meetings (quarterly):-

Tuesday 13th September 2022 6-7:30pm

Tuesday 6th December 2022 6-7:30pm

Tuesday 28th March 2023 6-7:30pm

AGM - Tuesday 20th June 2023 6-8:00pm

6. Membership and Forms

FOCG membership form is currently available online via the website and Facebook Page. Paper copies are currently available upon request. ZK advised that she has previously provided printed copies of the membership form but asked that the committee prioritise funding for administration and printing costs. Noted that ZK and KP have funded all design, printing, website and domain costs and costs of putting on the Jubilee Celebration out of their own pockets.

ZK to amend membership form to ask people to let us know if they have a particular interest in volunteering with us and what they can bring to the group. The committee acknowledged that we have access to a fantastic skill and knowledge base within our existing membership that needs to be tapped in to..

7. Churchill Gardens assets (Old Joy Cafe building and Aspire Hub)

ZK confirmed that 2 questions have been submitted to the Monitoring Officer at BCP Council ahead of the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 12th July 2022.

- 1) On 19th January 2021 BCP Council were granted planning permission to demolish the existing park building in Churchill Gardens and erect a community/cafe building. We ask the Head of Planning to remove the condition to demolish the existing park building within 2 months of the new building being open to the public, applied to the grant of planning application, on the basis that it is no longer relevant or reasonable. Churchill Gardens cannot afford to lose such a valuable community resource that has the potential to be repurposed to serve the community as a sustainable living centre under community management.

- 2) Will Bournemouth Youth Service (who own the building) grant The Friends of Churchill Gardens a lease to occupy the existing park building (on the same terms as currently offered to the Coastline Vineyard Church i.e. rent free) IF it is possible to prevent the demolition of the building.

JM raised the issue of the Localism Act 2011 and the Community Right to Bid in relation to the existing Joy Cafe building and the new Aspire building. ZK clarified that the community right to bid gives certain community groups the right to nominate assets of community value (spaces or buildings that are valuable to their community). Once listed if the owner of the asset wishes to dispose of it the local authority must be notified and then wait for 6 weeks. During this 6 week period any “community interest group” can express an interest in acquiring the asset. If no interest is expressed the owner can dispose of the asset.

The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the benefits of registering the old Joy Cafe and/or the new Aspire building as an asset of community value.

The committee agreed that there would not be any benefit in registering the old Joy Cafe building as BCP Council’s only plans at the moment are to demolish the building and NOT sell.

The committee agreed that there would not be any benefit in registering the new Aspire building as an asset of community value at this time as BCP Council are unlikely to sell the building. Having spent £360,000 Euros on the building BCP Council will want to retain the asset and see it run as profitable business. It was noted that even if BCP Council did look to sell, The Friends of Churchill Gardens are not in a financial position to buy. ZK advised the group the Community Ownership Fund (round 2) is now open (Gov.UK). This fund helps community groups buy or renovate assets that would otherwise be lost from the community. Grants of up to £250,000 are available but any grant must be match funded.

RD suggested that the most likely way forward would be for BCP Council Communities to put delivery of the cafe/community space out to tender in November/December 2022. They are likely to want in the region of £1,000 a month rent and would require a full business evaluation model. It was noted that the biggest threat to the community would be if a corporate business decided to bid. The committee agreed that it would be in our best interests to use this time to look at ways of working together with Joy Cafe so that we are in a position to tender jointly.

8. Raised beds steering group nominees

JM updated the group. ZK and GS were nominated by the committee to sit on the steering group but GS declined. BCP Council still require two representatives of The Friends of Churchill Gardens to sit on the steering group alongside the Council and Grounded Community. JM queried why we needed to put forward a representative from the committee when ZK works for C3 Collaborating for Health as a part of The Aspire Project. ZK clarified that C3 Collaborating for Health is responsible for delivery of Boscombe Community Action Plan. BCP Council is

responsible for delivery and management of The Aspire Project. ZK also clarified that her membership of The Friends of Churchill Gardens is as a resident NOT a representative of C3 or The Aspire Project. It was noted that everyone has different opinions on how the raised beds are used. JM has looked at community gardens in the London Borough of Haringey that appear to work well. SC put forward his support for the growing area and the need for more. The committee agreed that JM would go back to BCP Council to provide clarification as to who's allowed to do what, where in the park, what is and isn't allowed to happen in the park and to come up with a model of delivery that demonstrates how the community growing space can work. The committee agreed that The Friends of Churchill Gardens should not take responsibility for decision making or overseeing what happens with the raised beds until The Aspire Project comes to an end at which point we can look to work with members and Grounded Community to establish longer term plans.

9. Noticeboards

JM raised the issue of notice boards in Churchill Gardens. JM was of the understanding that there were three notice boards in the park, one belonging to the Council, one belonging to The Friends of Churchill Gardens and one in Joy Cafe. ZK clarified that the noticeboard at the Churchill Road/Borthwick Road corner of the park is BCP Council owned. There is a poster there promoting membership of The Friends of Churchill Gardens. The wooden noticeboard by the raised beds is also BCP Council owned, having been relocated by GS with the permission of Jacqui Van Bommel, Landscape Architect at BCP Council earlier this year when the former GrowZone raised beds were removed, to save it from going to waste. The intention was for this board to be used to let people know what was happening in the new growing area. The Friends of Churchill Gardens can also use this noticeboard. Grounded will be installing a lockable PVC box on one half of one side of this board to display their notices as they have been repeatedly removed. RD confirmed that there will be a new community noticeboard when Joy Cafe relocates to the new building.

10. Future events and what members want to see happen in Churchill Gardens

Following the success of The Friends of Churchill Gardens Jubilee Celebration KL presented a range of ideas for future events and activities including pop up outdoor cinema, story and craft club, crafting sessions etc. RD has been looking at funding available from Dorset Police to prevent antisocial behaviour which could possibly be accessed to fund some of this work with young people using the park. Agreed that these ideas should be presented at the General Members Meeting in July 2022 for feedback. ZK raised the urgent need for the group to take out its own PL insurance. Quotes have already been sought.

11. Official Facebook Page vs 'Unofficial' Facebook Group

GS has removed all committee members from admin or moderator roles on 'The Friends of Churchill Gardens' FB Group. The Friends of Churchill Gardens Facebook Page is now active (8,074 people reached in the last 28 days) and people are being encouraged to like and follow this 'official page' to keep up to date with developments. The 'Unofficial' FB group is no longer associated with the 'Official' FB page or the actual The Friends of Churchill Gardens committee. It was agreed that the committee should only post on the official page moving forward.

12. Park cleanliness

JM raised the issue of park cleanliness i.e. sharps and dog mess. The committee noted that there had not been an issue with sharps being found in the park for some time now. Overall the park is clean and tidy with the Council doing twice weekly litter picks and a number of local residents often doing their own litter picks throughout the week. Dog mess is still an issue at times.

13. AOB

The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the expectations of members. Agreed that we need to ensure that signed up members agree to abide by the rules and aims of the constitution. Where members decide to go against The Friends of Churchill Gardens or not act in the best interests of the group action must be taken. Members of the committee raised several issues relating to the behaviour and conduct of one particular member of the group and a decision was reached for JM as Chair to write to the member in question warn that their membership will be revoked unless the committee sees a change in behaviour and a commitment to work collaboratively with the committee in the interests of the community. JM to issue a warning letter.