



The Friends of Churchill Gardens

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2022

Minutes of last meeting accepted as true record.

Present - Jack Maguire (Chair), Sam Cutler (Member), Adam Playfair (Treasurer), Zoe Keeping (Co-Secretary), Katerina Svetlikova (Member), Nick Coram (Member)

1. **Apologies** - Kelly Longrigg (Vice Chair), Sophie Pope (Co-Secretary), Reece Dougall (Member)
2. **Minutes of last meeting** - accepted as true record.
3. **Matters arising** -
 - AP confirmed that verification of I.D. has been done with NatWest. 4 committee members have passed verification (JM, KL, AP, SP). It can take 6-8 weeks to open the account but NatWest have agreed to expedite the process because of the previous delays.
 - JM advised that he has spoken to a council officer at BCP Council regarding significant budget constraints and risks of services being cut. 40% cuts in non-essential services with immediate effect. BCP Council are trying to avoid cutting essential services until after the elections in May 2023. As a group we need to ensure that BCP Council do not cut back on refuse collection and fly tipping removal. All agreed that there is no point in WISE coming around. Not clear if any prosecutions in Churchill Gardens following the initial prosecution involving a resident of Churchill Road who was forced to pay a doorstep fine after leaving a bag of paper recycling by the communal bins that were overflowing. WISE does not discourage flytipping. The only way to deal with flytipping is to stop attracting it and clear it.
 - JM has spoken to Labour Councillor for Boscombe West Lewis Allison who said that he was not receiving notes of FOCG meetings. ZK advised that this is because Lewis is not

a member of FOCG. Cllr Jane Kelly and Cllr George Farquhar are members. ZK will contact Lewis again to ask him to sign up.

- NC updated the committee on a piece of work he has started compiling an inventory of all play equipment in the children's play area (also listing equipment that has been removed) and its condition. NC advised that it is fairly easy to identify suppliers. He is looking to prepare a schedule of works detailing what work is needed to bring equipment back up to standard. Suggestion that BCP Council may be able to support costs of repairs/painting play equipment from maintenance budgets rather than capital (£112,000 allocated to Churchill Gardens for play area has been withdrawn). Ask BCP Council to match fund with services rather than cash. Another aspect of this project could be a brief history of the play area, when was equipment put in, what have we lost over the years and why. Question regarding surfacing as this is one of the biggest issues raised by BCP Council as the surfacing under the swings etc is now outdated and needs to be replaced. The park is always full after school. Need to look at usage statistics.
- Theresa from Grounded Community has contacted JM to discuss the future of the growing area and raised beds once the ASPIRE Project comes to end next Spring. As the space is currently being controlled by BCP Council ASPIRE Project agreed that the Council is responsible for handing over the legacy to FOCG, if that's what they intend to do, but the Council needs to ensure that there is a transition plan in place that enables the local community and residents to participate and get involved in the growing area. JM has invited Theresa to attend the General Meeting of Members on 6th December 2022. ZK advised that Grounded are committed to supporting FOCG and local residents to make best use of the raised beds to help reduce food insecurity. ZK also confirmed that funding is available to support community growing projects.
- JM advised that Watsons contract is up for renewal. This could go out to another company of BCP Council could bring flytipping management in house. Risk that if it goes in house it could be defined as a non-essential service so could be cut. Environmental Health have advised BCP Council Street Services that they should collect fly tipping from areas with communal bins. All present agreed that Churchill Gardens must continue to have daily collections.
- ASPIRE and the Churchill Gardens Hub - JM questioned whether the Churchill Gardens Hub building will go up for tender based on its value as a cafe or a cafe/community space. The ASPIRE Project ends on 31st March 2023. The 'Hub' building was supposed to be a community food hub, not just a cafe, providing space for cookery classes, a community food store and more. The ASPIRE Project and the significant EDF investment was always intended to leave a significant legacy for the community. As things stand the ASPIRE Project has resulted in a significant loss to the community.

Joy Cafe currently has a licence to occupy the Churchill Gardens Hub. Joy Cafe is incorporated within Coastline Vineyard Church who are the legal entity and licence

holders. AP clarified that Joy Cafe is not a registered charity but Coastline Vineyard Church is and Joy Cafe is a restricted fund within the Church. ZK highlighted a need for all interested parties to lay their cards on the table to ensure that not one agenda is being pushed forward. Whilst Joy Cafe is part of the Church it will have its own agenda and this needs to be clear and transparent. The group acknowledged the hugely positive impact Joy Cafe has had on the community and Churchill Gardens but there was also an acceptance that Joy Cafe has changed significantly from when BP first opened the community cafe in 2017. It has seen a marked increase in footfall since relocating to the new building and is operating as a business. We need to ensure that any cafe provision in Churchill Gardens is financially viable but also inclusive and accessible to those who live in and around the square. ZK suggested that it would be good for FOCG to have an open dialogue with Coastline Vineyard Church regarding the future of the Hub and if/how we can work together in the best interests of the whole community. AP is a member of the Church and agreed to speak to the Pastor and Trustees to see if someone can attend a future meeting. AP also confirmed that RD will be leaving Joy Cafe and Churchill Gardens at the end of November. This will be a real loss to the local community. SD will be taking over as manager of Joy Cafe. AP suggested that SD should be co-opted on to the committee in RD'S place. All agreed that this made sense. AP will discuss with SD.

Group discussion regarding the future of the Churchill Gardens Hub and how best we can protect what little community space there is in the Hub once the ASPIRE Project ends. All present agreed that we want a cafe in Churchill Gardens but also a community space. Negotiations to retain the old community building are ongoing and have been since July 2022 but its future still hangs in the balance. ZK confirmed that BCP Council would not be able to fund the demolition costs through the ASPIRE Project/ERDF and that no other funds are available but we are still hitting a brick wall in terms of getting an Energy Performance Certificate. BCP Council pre planning application was not favourable so we are currently in a position whereby we would have to apply for full planning permission if BCP Council will not back down.

AP suggested that the best way forward would be for FOCG to work with Joy Cafe to come up with a plan as to how to manage the Hub and the old building post 31st March 2022 on a self-sustaining basis. If Joy Cafe can continue to run the cafe successfully on a commercial basis any profit could go to FOCG to be ploughed back into Churchill Gardens to help fix the problems we're looking to solve. FOCG could take a lead in managing the community space in the old building and the Hub. NC suggested that there was a need for FOCG to prove itself to BCP Council and that we could look to deliver a small project by March 2023 that would evidence our commitment. FOCG needs to show the Council what we can do with limited resources to help bring the existing play equipment back up to standard.

- NC has spoken to GS who has said that he agrees that there need to be one The Friends of Churchill Gardens group, not two. ZK clarified that there can only be one

constituted group but confusion has arisen as a result of GS remaining the sole admin of The Friends of Churchill Gardens Facebook Group and removing/blocking committee members. GS has expressed a wish to have his membership reinstated. All present agreed that any request to be reinstated would be considered fairly. JM pointed out that GS had been given the opportunity to sort things out prior to his membership being revoked and he chose not to give any form of undertaking to work with the new committee and our community partners respectfully. Given the fact that GS is currently subject to a Community Protection Notice (CPN) that prevents him from coming into Churchill Gardens it was agreed that no further action was necessary at this time. Should GS wish to have his membership reinstated the onus should be on him to make direct contact with the committee.

4. Treasurer Report (AP) -

£231-19 in bank account. £100 cash donation from Boscombe Rotary Club not banked.
Total £331-19.

£306.64 restricted funds to support FOCG work with children/young people as part of Breakfast Club/After School Club (GoFundMe campaign). £180-00 pending transaction for football coaching.

= £126.64 restricted funds.

= £24.55 unrestricted funds.

BCP Council Communities Development Team (Jack Blankley) has promised FOCG a grant of £500. Now that the new Natwest business bank account is up and running ZK will contact Jack to arrange for the grant to be paid in.

AP has spoken to GS who has agreed to sign the mandate in relation to the old FOCG Santander bank account now that the newly elected group has a new bank account and the finances are being managed effectively. Two signatories need to sign the mandate to release the funds. GS, RF, CC are signatories on the old account. CC is ill and living in a nursing home. AP will see if he can get GS and RF to sign the relevant paperwork so the group can access the £300 (approx).

5. General Members Meeting -

General Members Meeting confirmed to take place on Tuesday 6th December 2022. This meeting will be open to all signed up members of FOCG and residents of Churchill Gardens with the aim of building some bridges with people who live on the square and increasing membership. This meeting will be more of a social event with a bring and share meal, hot drinks etc and a brief update from JM on work carried out by the committee so far in 2022.

Dates for your diary:

Committee Meetings (closed to members):- Tuesday 31st January, Tuesday 28th February 2023, Tuesday 25th April 2023, Tuesday 23rd May 2023.

General Members Meetings (quarterly):-

Tuesday 6th December 2022 6-7:30pm

Tuesday 28th March 2023 6-7:30pm

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