



**The Friends of Churchill Gardens
GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS HELD ON TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2024**

Present:

Committee: Jack Maguire (Vice Chairperson), Zoe Keeping (Committee Member), Katerina Svetlikova (Committee Member), Abigail McQueen (Committee Member).

Members: None.

Absent: Sammy Davies (Secretary).

1. Apologies:

Nick Coram (Chair), Adam Playfair (Treasurer).

2. Attendance

Jack noted lack of attendance from members as disappointing. Adam has uploaded Minutes to the CGCA website and also emailed members with dates of upcoming meetings. Agreed that with the evenings getting lighter and hopefully better weather we can encourage more members to attend future meetings.

3. Matters Arising

Cllr Patrick Canavan provisionally attending committee meeting on 30th April (postponed from 16th April). Members are invited to submit questions.

The old community building has now been demolished and cleared. The land has been seeded with grass and is currently closed off with heras fencing. BCP Council Parks has confirmed that they have black railings being recycled to shut off the corner of the playground, the posts are on order, as soon as the grass is thick enough and the fencing in it will be in use.

4. Treasurers Report

No change from last month. Funds remain at £314.33. No current spending plans other than the continued web domain (x4) costs of £35/year (total) renewing annually in May.

5. Bins and Fly Tipping

Nick is asking for data regarding quantity of rubbish, number and frequency of collections from BCP Council under Freedom Of Information Act and asking for a meeting with Street Services. Need to establish whether refuse collection and fly tipping collection is defined as an essential service in light of the current discussions over Council cuts. Suggestion that CGCA establish a binding service level agreement with BCP Council. Nick reports that fly tipping appears to be being collected daily at the moment. There still appears to be a claim that fly tipping is down to residents. Abi and others reported seeing vans drive through and dumping rubbish on a regular basis. No up to date reports on number of prosecutions by WISE. Concerns also raised regarding removal of asbestos from communal bins and risk to Council staff, residents and park users.

Tina Kirman, BCP Council Community Development Officer is in the process of setting up another BCP Council Multi Disciplinary Team meeting, including representatives from CGCA to look at all issues in Churchill Gardens including bins and fly tipping.

6. BCP Community Power Project - Saturday 6th April

BCP - Bring Community Power will be launching their first community project in Churchill Gardens on 6th April. Churchill Gardens was voted for on FB by the public.

The group's aim is to clean, enriching and give value to the area. Simone had originally put out an appeal for plants, flowers, decorations, garden toys as well as manpower/skills. Jacqui Van-Bommel, BCP Council Landscape Architect had reached out to CGCA via Zoe to express her concerns regarding the group carrying out any unauthorised works in the Park or causing any damage.

As agreed by the Committee Abi and Zoe met with Simone Ippolito from BCP - Bring Community Power in the Park on Saturday 16th March. It is clear that Simone has good intentions but the driving force behind the group is a lack of faith in BCP Council to get things done. Abi and Zoe clarified CGCA's position, the fact that Churchill Gardens is a Conservation Area and Heritage Site and also subject to a Masterplan. We explained that it would not be advisable to plant or install any play equipment without first getting authorisation from BCP Council Parks. Agreed to support the event on Saturday 6th April and promote within our membership. Suggested to Simone that they focus on the following tasks:

- Litter pick (Zoe/Impact Boscombe can provide kit).
- Trimming long grass edges around raised beds, play equipment and exercise equipment (where Council ride on mowers don't reach).
- Cleaning of children's play equipment.

- Power washing the concrete area in the Play Area.

Longer term:

- Support CGCA to work with BCP Council Parks to sand down and repaint children's play equipment.
- Fundraise to help cover the costs of paint and Katerina's time/skills to repaint on the concrete area in the Play Area.

Simone has signed up as a member of CGCA. Members can find out more about BCP Community Power here:

[BCP - Bring Community Power | Facebook](#)

UPDATE: Zoe has spoken to Jacqui Van Bommel at BCP Council. Nick and Zoe will be attending a meeting with Denise, Jacqui and Tina from the Council on Thursday 10th April. Jacqui has confirmed that there is a complete freeze on Council spending at the moment which has left Parks in a very difficult situation. They are not able to replace or renew any play equipment in Parks without grant funding. Agreed that Zoe would send Jaqui a list of play equipment that needs replacing i.e. swing seats, the basket swing so she can ask her colleague for costs and CGCA can explore funding opportunities.

7. Churchill Gardens Hub/Park Cafe Tender

Zoe has been in contact with Martin Whitchurch at BCP Council for an update on the tender document for the Churchill Gardens Hub building/Park Cafe. Disappointingly, the tender document is still with the Council's legal/procurement team. Martin has confirmed that CGCA will have sight of the final draft before it goes out to the public. Concerns have been raised with the Council regarding the length of time it is taking and the fact that longer delays are likely to make it more difficult for other community groups/charities to bid. Martin has confirmed that once the tender is ready all interested parties will have the opportunity to bid via the Supplying the South West Portal. Zoe has registered with the Portal and is receiving alerts of all new opportunities.

[Supplying the South West Portal](#)

All present agreed that it would be beneficial for CGCA to gain more of a foothold on the building, especially now that the old community building has been demolished. It is imperative that CGCA and its members are able to benefit from the 'community space'. After 5pm Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday, the community space should be available for wider community use. It would be fairly straightforward to set up a booking system and service user agreement.

ACTION: Zoe to contact BCP Council Parks and Communities to ask if CGCA can share responsibility for managing the bookings to the Churchill Gardens Hub/Park Cafe 'community space' pending the outcome of the tender process

UPDATE: This has provisionally been agreed by BCP Council Communities Team. Zoe will work with Tina Kirkman and Joy Cafe to devise a booking system and agree access to the building. This will need to be cleared by Martin Whitchurch who is currently on annual leave.

UPDATE: Jacqui Van Bommel at BCP Council has confirmed that overall management of the GrowZone WILL be included in the tender with whoever gets the Cafe having responsibility for managing and maintaining the space.

8. Coastline Community Trust/Joy Cafe

Joy Cafe is under the umbrella of Coastline Community Trust, a charitable company registered with Charities Commission and Companies House. Becky Playfair is a Director and Trustee. One of the Trust's charitable objectives is *'TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE PROVISION OF PASTORAL OUTREACH CARE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS BASED ON CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.'* The Trust's articles state *'As the charity has been established and supported by Coastline Vineyard Church the majority of Trustees are members of Coastline Vineyard Church and or approved by the Trustees of Coastline Vineyard Church.'*

It was noted that the CGCA Committee has been told that Joy Cafe is in the process of registering as a standalone CIC (Community Interest Company) and non-profit making. This appears not to be the case at the moment. All present agreed that it would be good to get some clarification on Joy Cafe's legal structure. Accounts filed with the Charities Commission show that for year end 31 March 2023, Joy Cafe did make a profit.

The Committee noted that whilst Coastline Vineyard Church is a big part of the Churchill Gardens community all present agreed that not all CGCA members or residents, visitors to the Park are part of the Christian Church, or want to be. Census data shows us that more than 50% of Boscombe West residents identify as having no religion, atheist or pagan. It is imperative that CGCA remains apolitical and non-religious in order to represent our current membership and continue to build trust within the Churchill Gardens community. This is a particular concern when it comes to the tender process for the Churchill Gardens Community Hub/Park Cafe and how our members perceive our relationship with Joy Cafe. The question was raised as to how members/residents would feel if they knew that Joy Cafe was part of the Coastline's Mission (many are completely unaware) and how people would react if any other Group was to bid for the tender with the objective of promoting any other religion, faith or belief.

ACTION: Chair/Chairperson to address directly with Becky Playfair and invite Coastline Community Trust to attend the next Committee Meeting.

Zoe to speak to Jack Blankley in BCP Council Communities to find out if the Council did ever request the 60% of profit from Coastline (*term of the licence agreement in return for having the building rent free*) as this was supposed to go back to the community at the end of the ASPIRE Project, once accounts had been reconciled. ASPIRE Project Manager Wilbert Smith had previously indicated that this should go to CGCA.

9. Committee Vacancies

According to the constitution the committee shall be made up of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and up to five committee members. There are currently 2 vacancies for committee members. The constitution allows the committee to elect new committee members to fulfil vacancies that may occur during the year.

10. AOB

None.