

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Established 1997

Web: www.fopa.co.uk Email: info@fopa.co.uk

The 24th Annual General Meeting took place at The Cornerstone Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th October 2021

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AGENDA

1. Election of the Committee for 2021/2
2. Approve the Minutes of the 23^d AGM, and the 2020 Accounts
3. Chair's report: working for residents with the Council & volunteers to improve our Square and Crescent for residents
4. Question & Answer session: Councillors Hannah Clare & Phelim MacCafferty
5. AOB

The meeting being quorate, David welcomed members and guests Councillors Hannah Clare & Phelim MacCafferty to the AGM

1 Committee

Since the last AGM:

- Both Chair Peter and Secretary Frank resigned on 13th July 2021. David recorded our thanks to both for their commitment to FoPA over many years.
- As the Vice Chair at the time, David Ward agreed to step up to the role of Chair; Will Rowan offered to act as Secretary.
(See Section 4 of the Constitution: "*Casual vacancies on the Committee may be filled as soon as possible*")
- During Summer '21 Gregor England offered to help with our Communications, and joined the Committee.

At this AGM, in addition to the existing committee members, two nominations have been received:

- Dale George, to support the visibility of local businesses
- Judith Taylor offering to act as liaison with the PAGFund, where she's a Director

An open conversation followed:

- Judith indicated joining in a FoPA/PAG liaison role, which is a different role from both the nomination letter and the role agreed before the AGM.
- Offered the opportunity to accept the proposed committee en bloc, the members wished to vote on the two nominations individually.

- Adopting suggestions from members present, David proposed that FoPA & PAG discuss outside the AGM how best the two organisations might collaborate, potentially in a sub committee.
- Judith chose to leave the AGM without saying why; the meeting took that as withdrawing her nomination.

The proposed Committee was approved, and looks forward to representing the views of residents.

The Committee comprises:

Chair	David Ward
Secretary	Will Rowan
Treasurer	George Dean
Gardens	Trish Thompson
Streetscape	Rory Connelly
Communications	Gregor England
Business relations	Dale George

2 The previous AGM's minutes, Chair's report and Accounts were accepted.

Chair's report 2020/21

These are extraordinary times, and it has been 21 months since our last AGM and Chair's report. Our world has changed irreversibly, and in noting the events of the past period, as a new Chair, our committee are asking what the future looks like.

During lockdown, and its subsequent phased easings we saw our gardens being put under extraordinary pressure. More people were using the space, which is welcome, but some were misusing the space and threatening the health and safety of others. We have sought support from the police and our councillors, and both have been helpful in these difficult circumstances.

The changes we've seen in response to the pandemic show how change outside our immediate area can have unintended consequences on our community. Portaloos on the lawns have reduced the number of people relieving themselves in the bushes, the advent of cycle lanes and electric car charging broke Zone M's allocation of Residents Parking Permits. We are going to become a greener society, so it's a delight to have been involved in securing new bus shelters on the North of Palmeira. I look forward to working proactively with the Police and the Council to improve our shared spaces, to keep them safe, healthy and make them a space for all.

I suspect that we will battle every year to have our eyesore Christmas Tree mountain removed! This year it took direct intervention from our Chair and Counsellor to finally have them taken away after 3 months. The remedial work to repair the grass appears to have been effective: we've asked that the damage to the pathway tarmac is looked at, along with the condition of pathways throughout the parks. We asked in June that before next Christmas the Council work with their contractor to avoid a repeat mountain, and FOPA will continue to pursue this.

Our community relies on the efforts of many volunteers. From the Park Rangers, who put in the hazel fence, to one lovely lady who with her daughter regularly tends to the rosebed in Adelaide.

From the individuals raising funds for planting (the Council promise it's going in this autumn) to the regular clean ups by PAG Fund: imagine what our gardens would look like without them. Then there's Stuart himself, and his epic crusade to remove weeds from our pavements. Thank you all.

FOPA's committee continued to meet over the past 18 months, remotely rather than in person. My thanks to my fellow committee members for continuing their often unsung work. Thanks in particular to Rory for the blindingly swift removal of graffiti, and for keeping the street lights on and off, at the appropriate times. Thanks to Trish for her tireless negotiating with the Council Parks Department and working with Jack our gardener.

During the pandemic Chair Peter and Secretary Frank stepped down; my thanks to both for all their work supporting FOPA. And Richard, who has held the Planning portfolio for ever, is retiring. His calm and measured assessment developments will be missed.

Whether maintenance or new initiatives, volunteering or fundraising, I look forward to FOPA playing an active role in supporting our residents as they enhance this beautiful place we share.

Your Chair,

David Ward

3 Cllr Hannah Clare addressed the meeting

Refuse collection industrial action is a clear priority and the council aims to resolve the dispute. Contractors can be brought in to clear the backlog of rubbish once the dispute is resolved.

£115 million has been lost from the council's budget over the past 10-years. Op Hannah is grateful to volunteers and encourages them to work closely with the Gardens team. Training is available through the council's tidy up team who can also organise litter picks.

Local action team meetings are restarting.

PCSOs are now back in the Ward.

There will be significant investment in toilets, and a commitment to keep them free.

Freedom of the City has been given to everyone who contributed to the pandemic response, and their names will be recorded.

In response to questions from the floor,

- confirmation that Parks are responsible for the surface for the tarmac surface and potholes. Some consideration is being given to handrails.
- acknowledged the difficulties of the council's website, and noted that Parking permits and disabled spaces are both powers delegated to the Transport team.

4 There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2020 & ACCOUNTS FOR 1ST HALF 2021

The Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide Residents' Association

Income and Expenditure Account

For the Period ended 31st December 2020

	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
<u>Income</u>				
Donations		£ 731		£ 187
Christmas Raffle		£ 97		£ 116
Christmas and AGM Party		£ 332		£ 290
		£ 1,160		£ 593
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Business Stream Water	£ 56		£ 44	
Cornerstone Room Hire	£ 62		£ 50	
AGM and Party Expenses	£ 128		£ 242	
UK2 Web Hosting	£ 129		£ 20	
Donations and Garden	£ 11		£ 85	
Printing Flyers	None	£ 386	£ 27	£ 468
Surplus for Period		£ 774		£ 125
		£ 1,160		£ 593

Represented by:

Capital Brought Forward	£ 949		£ 824
Surplus for Period	£ 774		£ 125
	£ 1,723		£ 949
Cash at Bank	£ 1,723		£ 1,003
Less Creditors	None		£ 54
	£ 1,723		£ 949

Prepared by George Dean BA(Hons) Honorary Treasurer

31st May 2021