

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 will take place at The Cornerstone Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th October 2021
It will help greatly if you can RSVP.

To reduce costs please bring these pages with you. We hope to have a few copies available too.

===

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
5. AOB

1. The following residents have offered to serve on the Committee :

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

If no objections are received all will be elected by block vote.

The Committee welcomes new ideas and help with our work

If any residents would like to join the Committee please contact us by writing to info@fopa.co.uk

2. Minutes of the 23d AGM

If you have any comments or additions to the content, please contact us by 30 Sept at info@fopa.co.uk

The Friends of Palmeira & Adelaide (FOPA)

Minutes of 23rd AGM

Cornerstone Centre, 11th January 2020

Present:

Chairman: Peter Jukes (PJ)

Committee: Rory Connelly (RC), George Dean (GD), Frank Inglis (FI), Trish Thompson (TT), David Ward (DW)

Apologies for absence: David Ryan (DR)

Notetaker: Frank Inglis

1. With an attendance of 32, including those on the committee, the meeting was confirmed as quorate. PJ welcomed amongst attendees our ward councillors, Phelim MacCafferty & Hannah Clare.

2. The Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM, the Annual Accounts and the Chairman's Annual Report had been circulated before the meeting.

3. **Proceedings**

3.1 The Minutes of the 22nd AGM of FOPA, held on 12th January 2019, were presented by PJ and adopted by acclamation.

3.2 The Annual Report for 2019 was presented by PJ and adopted by acclamation.

3.3 The Annual Accounts for 2019 were presented by GD and adopted by acclamation. PJ thanked GD for his work in maintaining and preparing accounts and Tim Kirkup for auditing the Annual Accounts.

3.4 **Election of the committee**

PJ informed the meeting that he, RC, GD, FI, DR, TT & DW were willing to continue in office. PJ proposed a block vote for all the members. This was seconded by Susan Hunter and adopted by acclamation. PJ drew attention to the departures from the committee of Sue Hitching and David Sewell and thanked them for their many years of service. PJ also indicated a need for fresh blood on the committee, especially as DR had indicated that he wished to step down from his role by the end of 2020 at the latest.

4. **Questions**

PJ invited questions from the floor on the Annual Report & Annual Accounts.

There was a query from the floor on the 0.04p interest showing on the Annual Accounts which was clarified by GD.

5. **Any other business**

PJ drew attention to the Arboricultural Accoustic Tomograph Assessment ('Tree Report') produced for the council prompted by engagement of PJ on behalf of FOPA & supported by concerns raised by Garden Fund and persistent support from ward councillor, Phelim MacCafferty, a report which recommends pollarding of dangerously overgrown trees in the Square. FOPA confidently expects the council to act on the recommendations of the report & PJ offered copies of the report to interested parties.

A query was raised from the floor as to the pronunciation of 'FOPA'. PJ expressed preference for the long vowel, supported by the linguist in FI, who suggested a short vowel would indicate a doubling of the consonant 'p'.

The business of the meeting being completed, the meeting concluded at 6.30pm. The next AGM will be held on a date to be arranged.

Annual Report for 2019

This is my 3rd Annual Report as FOPA Chairman of the work of the Committee on behalf of residents during the previous 12 months .

The individual committee members have remained as active as ever, usually working very quietly behind the scenes on behalf of all residents and in the interests of maintaining the unique environment in which we are privileged to live. During the year, Sue Hitching, our long-serving and hardworking Hon Treasurer

and Hon Sec/Membership Secretary decided to step down to allow herself time to pursue studies for a Master's degree in which endeavour we wish her every success. Shortly after leaving the committee, while Sue and her partner Brian (who had been assisting informally but very valuably as the committee note-taker), were on a short break in Berlin, Brian succumbed to critical illness and very sadly passed away within days; our deepest sympathies are of course extended to Sue. Sue's former committee roles have been distributed to Frank Inglis as Hon Sec and George Dean as Hon Treasurer. We are extremely grateful to both of them. We have also lost the services of another long-serving committee member in David Sewell on his move to live in the Seven Dials area. David had been particularly active in matters arising from the Local Action Team at whose quarterly meetings he was one of two FOPA representatives together with David Ward. The LAT deals particularly with Council and police liaison and recent good news was that 2 full-time PCSOs had been allocated to our area from Palmeira to Brunswick Squares. We hope we have secured a replacement LAT member in Palmeira resident Alan Donahoe who is interested in a community role in Palmeira/Adelaide without formally joining the FOPA committee. Separately, as FOPA chairman I have continued to represent Palmeira and Adelaide at the regular meetings of The Brunswick Town Association which seeks to safeguard the community heritage of this very special part of the city, maintaining an active dialogue with the City Council on current issues, particularly in respect of licensing of buildings and public/commercial events. Two especially active but unsung members of the committee are Rory Connelly and Trish Thompson. Rory is the man you will see regularly on his self-imposed rubbish clearance duty in the gardens and he also deals assiduously with each instance of graffiti on our buildings and walls. His very effective liaison with the Council usually achieves removal of each new Tag within about 24 hours, a level of performance which must be eyed enviously from residents in other parts of the city. He similarly ensures rapid removal of abandoned bicycles and the fitting of replacement bulbs in the street lighting. Trish is the gardening member on the committee and maintains a very effective partnership with the Council's lead gardener for our area. It is unfortunately the case that Council finance, manpower and other resources allocated to public gardens have steadily reduced in recent years but Trish works tirelessly to achieve the best possible utilisation of such resources as are available. She also ensures the optimum deployment of scarce FOPA funds when necessary, to fill gaps left by the Council in respect of bulbs, shrubs and trees.

An interesting non-FOPA development in the gardens during 2019 has been the creation of The Garden Fund by two concerned residents for the purpose of enhancing the efforts of the Council gardener and of FOPA by additional planting. They are financing these efforts by the occasional table-top sales which took place throughout 2019 and are expected to continue in 2020, all subject to appropriate licensing on each occasion. FOPA is maintaining close contact with these endeavours via Trish Thompson, to ensure compatibility between our respective programmes which are otherwise separate.

Heritage issues in our locality are very closely observed by long-time Palmeira resident and past FOPA committee member Richard Hawkes who remains extremely vigilant on our behalf and intervenes as necessary with our Ward Councillors Phelim MacCafferty and Hannah Clare who fortunately share our concerns and regularly intervene for us or exert pressure when needed in the appropriate corridors of power. They are very helpful; our thanks to both. A feature of the last two Annual Reports was planning and then monitoring of progress in respect of the replacement of house rubbish collections by communal bins in strategic locations. The communal system is now well-established and, beyond some inevitable teething problems, seems to have worked better than many feared. There remain problem days when for one of a variety of reasons there is some sort of hiatus in rubbish collection generally around the City and doubtless this will always be so but communal bins are here to stay, requiring all of us to collaborate towards the achievement of smooth working.

The FOPA website (www.fopa.co.uk) which has been designed and installed for us free of charge by IT professional and FOPA committee member David Ryan and his partner Simon, is regularly updated by David with news of past or forthcoming events or matters which should simply be drawn to residents'

attention e.g. the spate of house break-ins which occurred in Palmeira properties last November. If you live in the FOPA area the website is certainly recommended reading on a regular basis. The annual message remains valid that we are always looking for new blood to refresh the committee so please chat to one of us if you feel this rewarding but undemanding and sociable local involvement would interest you.

Formally, the committee meets only three times a year in the Cornerstone plus the AGM so it is not an onerous commitment although there might be ancillary roles which grab your interest. We currently lack a Membership Secretary in particular, probably the least onerous role of all and mainly requiring computer access and very basic IT skills. Please do have a chat with me or any member of the current committee if you think this might interest you. As separately promulgated by notices and on the website, the 2019 AGM in the Cornerstone at 6pm on 11 Jan is again being immediately followed on the same evening by our Annual Party, an enjoyable opportunity for FOPA members to mingle informally for an hour or so with a glass of wine and some small eats - all organised by committee members to whom I am extremely grateful – and all for the very modest charge of £10pp, payable in advance via party@fopa.co.uk or on the door. Our Ward Councillors have been invited and will I hope be present together with our new PCSOs and I hope, all of you. I very much hope you will attend for both parts of the evening and I look forward to seeing you there.

PETER JUKES, CHAIRMAN

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

3. CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 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