

MINUTES OF
25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA SQUARE AND ADELAIDE
held on
Wednesday 1st March 2023 7.30pm at
Cornerstone Meeting House

PRESENT:

COMMITTEE

David Ward – Chair

George Dean – Treasurer

Gregor England - Communications

Trish Thompson – Gardens

Notetaker: Sue Hitching

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received

The attendance was thirteen including the members of the committee, the meeting was therefore quorate.

2. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 2023/24

David Ward, George Dean and Trish Thompson had all agreed to stand again for the Committee and were all re-elected for the coming year by acclamation.

David Ward (DW) said that Gregor England who had covered communications was now stepping down after being on the committee since July 2021. DW thanked him for all his work. As a consequence there were now four vacancies on the Committee – Secretary, Communications, Business relations and Streetscape. DW encouraged those present to volunteer for these roles which he said were not onerous.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the 24th AGM were approved by acclamation.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

DW thanked all past members. He highlighted the role of FOPA in working to conserve this heritage area. He also confirmed that an Accord had been reached with PAG (the Palmeira and Adelaide Garden fund) and said he hoped that going forward the two organisations would now be able to work harmoniously together.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

George Dean (GD) confirmed that FOPA's accounts had been transferred from HSBC to Lloyds bank. He acknowledged that funds were depleted, with donations of only £70 this year. The main outgoings were £7 a month for the water point in Palmeira Square, and costs for servicing the website. Responding to a question from the floor DW said he would check whether there was still a Donations button on the website. The accounts were approved by acclamation.

6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWER

Following the completion of the main business of the AGM, DW opened the floor to questions and answers.

He thanked both Cllr Phelim McCafferty (PMc), Leader of the Council and Cllr Hannah Allbrook (HA), our ward councillor for attending the meeting.

PMc clarified that the council was responsible for the overall maintenance of the gardens including planting, and big landscaping such as the recent cutting back of the elaeagnus bushes in Adelaide Crescent. He said the FOPA area shares a ranger and they for example, had been responsible for the organising the pollarding last year of the elms on the west side of Palmeira Square.

HA indicated that she had been working with Cityclean and that Communal rubbish bins in the middle area were being increased in size; and there would also be new recycling bins. This would include buffered ones for glass. There would be discussions with community groups before these were installed.

There was some discussion on whether the drainage in Adelaide Crescent could be improved to stop the annual winter lake forming.

PMc indicated that there were plans to put the floral clock back into working order, however his priority was working with Robert Walker to get the pathways in Adelaide Crescent resurfaced, with particular emphasis on the sloping paths on the West side which were now dangerous.

There was a question as to whether a new bench could be installed in Adelaide Crescent. PMc did not think this could be done at the moment. A bench could obviously be installed by private subscription.

PMc confirmed that the gardeners were working on a more coherent plan to control weeds this year, now that chemical control could not be used. The grass slopes in Adelaide and Palmeira would continue to be uncut this year to encourage insects and butterflies.

PMc said the council was intending to provide monies for initiatives in the area for the Coronation and Eurovision, as had been done for the Jubilee. It was noted that a party was already being planned by PAG.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DW said that removal of graffiti particularly on the Kingsway walls had been swiftly actioned.

It was noted that a number of kerb stones were loose or had fallen over completely around the Square and Crescent; and also that a fridge/freezer had been left on the pavement at the top of the Square. PMc said he would bring these to the attention of the appropriate departments.

8. THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The business of the meeting being completed, the meeting concluded. The next AGM would be held on a date to be arranged.