

# Minutes of Bear Flat Association AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Apologies: Jane Allan, Thelma Grimes, Mark Richardson

**Presentation:** Christopher Pound (Kip) gave a presentation on the Great Spa Towns of Europe. Kip has been working for the last 25 years to support towns and regions across the world to obtain and maintain UNESCO world heritage status. Bath has recently been granted this status for being one of eleven such spa towns in Europe and we were given a vivid outline of the key aspects of high-quality spas, including the importance of promenading 'entertainments' and, of course, the physical nature of buildings and the surrounding countryside.

**After his talk Kip showed the audience a beautifully illustrated 60-page hardback titled Bath as a Spa, which he offered to give to anyone who wished to have a permanent record of the topic. These can be obtained by contacting the BFA at enquiries@bearflat.org.uk**

## **Item 1: Minutes of the 2020 AGM and matters arising**

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and there were no matters arising

## **Item 2: Chair's Report (Nick Francis)**

The Chair's report (see attachment above) was accepted.

NF offered to contact the council collection and recycling teams, together with the local shops, to thank them for continuing to operate effectively throughout the past 12 months. The offer was accepted.

**Action: NF**

## **Item 3: Treasurer's report and presentation of 2020/21 accounts (Gareth Southgate for Mark Richardson)**

The accounts for 2020/21, which had been approved by the BFA Committee, were received by the AGM. There were no questions from the audience.

GS underlined that there was over £1500 of general funds and encouraged members of the audience to consider potential projects, to which these monies might be allocated.

## **Item 4: Presentations by sub groups of the BFA Committee**

### **4(a) Planning & Transport Group (Timothy Cantell)**

The report (see attachment above) was accepted.

In his presentation TC highlighted the 'Vision for Bear Flat Centre' and the fact that there were now two potential sources of funds to enable some of the plans to be implemented. The first of these is the local council and its Liveable Neighbourhood Fund; the second is the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) which is planning to implement a 'corridor study' on the A367. WECA's intention is to improve travel facilities for pedestrians and cyclists along the route of the Bath-Norton Radstock road, of which Bear Flat is a key element. With this in mind, the BFA has developed a proposal for a pedestrian crossing of Wellsway and Bloomfield Rd; this will be presented to the group carrying out the 'corridor study' when appropriate.

Shaun Stephenson-McGall, the councillor for Oldfield Park, referred to the Conservation Area appraisal for OP, which had been undertaken by TC and colleagues for the Council, and asked when it would be adopted by BANES. TC

replied that the Council would adopt this report when Conservation Area appraisals had been done for the whole of Bath, which was likely to be at least a year off.

#### **4(b) Food Group (Judith Eversley)**

The report (see attachment above) was accepted.

JE explained that although Hayes Place Ltd (HPL) had been wound up, aspects of the group's work would still continue under the auspices of the Bear Flat Environment (see item 5 below). The group will continue to provide refreshments for activities such as Carols by Torchlight (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at Alexandra Park viewpoint), the next Mikron Theatre performance (date tba) and the monthly tea parties held at Beechen Cliff Methodist Church Hall.

JE closed by giving thanks to all the volunteers who had worked for HPL over the last several years.

#### **4(c) Friends of Bloomfield Green (Clyde Hunter)**

The report (see attachment above) was accepted.

CH highlighted the recent awarding of the Green Flag and the achievement of 'advancing' status in the Royal Horticultural Society 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award, as particular achievements in the past year. FoBG have focussed more attention on activities for older children, with the installation of a combined football/basketball area this year and will now have to revamp some of the 20-year-old play equipment for younger children.

Looking ahead, the friends of Bloomfield Green are planning to run the annual 'Gathering on the Green' on 5th June 2022 and to offer more events with the funds currently available. (See Item 3 Treasurer's Report)

CH finished by thanking the 15-20 friends who have helped, in all weathers, to make the Green a success.

#### **Item 5: Bear Flat Environment (Gareth Somerset)**

The report (see attachment above) was accepted.

GS drew attention to the establishment of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which has been named Bear Flat Environment and which allows the BFA to raise funds and to sign contracts for works such as improving the Gore and developing the Bear Flat Vision.

Phase 1 of work on the Gore will begin shortly, with the removal of the Wessex Water box and renovation of the fountain, funded by £5000 from BANES, thanks to support from Councillor Winston Duguid. Phase 2, the removal of other utilities boxes, will take longer!

#### **Item 6: Friends of Alexandra Park (Sue Evans)**

SE is a member of the Friends of Alexandra Park, who help maintain the park, run events and act as a point of contact for both visitors and the Council. FoAP are now looking for volunteers to join the existing group, as some of those in key positions (Chair, Treasurer & Secretary) have been in post for 6 years and will shortly be moving on.

SE outlined some of the skills which the Friends group are looking for, including:

- Fund raising (e.g. for outdoor gym equipment)
- IT expertise to improve social media links
- Event management (e.g. helping to plan and deliver the annual Party in the Park)

Sue asked for anyone seeking more information or wishing to offer their support to contact her via the FoAP website ([www.alexandraparkbath.org](http://www.alexandraparkbath.org))

### **Item 7: Election of Officers**

The following people were elected to posts on a show of hands:

Chair: Nick Francis

Treasurer: Mark Richardson

Membership Secretary: James Gibson

Secretary: Bob Hughes

Vice Chair: No candidates

### **Item 8: Any Other Business**

Shaun Stephenson McGall, outlined to the meeting that he had a Councillor's Empowerment Fund of £1000, for which bids could be made, with a closing date of end November. The committee took note.

BH 23/10/21