

Bathwick Hill Residents' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7.30pm St Mary's Church Hall Bathwick

Attendees

Committee

Claire Jackson – Chair
Andrea Haywood – Treasurer and acting secretary
Richard Wales – FOBRA rep
Helen Green
Colin Clark
Wendy Stockley
William Hubbard – observer

Apologies

Maria Newton

Members – in no particular order

Christopher Bell
Suzanne and Simon Campbell-Jones
Paul Jackson
Julie Hayward
Sheila Stewart
Ben Chapman
Christine Clark
Dorothea Cuerden
Jim Coyle
Laurie & Nigel Hale
Cat & Simon Heale
Jill Brown
William Stockley
James Pullan
Nicholas Wood
Michael & Lesley Elboz
Martin Shirley
Sue Collins
Cato Rockne-Meyer
Katrin Rowlands
Susan & Mark MacDonald
Ann Westgarth
Julie Hayward
Felix Moore
Shane Larkin
David & Claire Dawson
Ann Cook
Sheila Stewart

Guests

Cllr Yuktesher Kumar
Cllr Manda Rigby

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Agreement of Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Proposed and agreed.

Chairperson's Report

The chair detailed the issues that the association has been involved with in the year. These included:-

- Party houses and planning
- Introduction of 20mph speed limit for the hill
- Litter picking groups – volunteers welcomed
- Parking issues in the middle of the hill
- Recycling bin for students outside shops at the bottom of the hill
- Bus stop nuisance issues
- VOI scooters

The chair talked about the events held in 2022/23

- Open gardens event – very successful and lovely weather
- Autumn Social with interesting talk from director of Holburne
- Petanque match and picnic planned for August didn't take place due to lack of interest – was a suggestion that it might be more popular in September

The chair outlined the planned events for 2023/24

- Open gardens planned for 10th June
- Autumn social event planned for November

A member's suggestion for an informal picnic at lunch time on Monday 8th May on Bathwick Fields to celebrate the coronation. This was a popular suggestion and it was agreed that this should take place – everyone to bring their own picnics and chairs and rugs and that we should gather on the fields to the left at the end of the path from the bus stop opposite Cleveland Walk.

Treasurer's report

The treasurer reported on the accounts for the year ended 28th February 2023. All as usual except for a charge relating to a security audit following a website hack. It has been secured.

The accounts were approved and are posted on the website.

Election of the Committee

The following were offered for re-election to the Committee:

Chair-person	Claire Jackson
Secretary	Temporarily Andrea Haywood
Treasurer	Andrea Haywood
FOBRA representative	Richard Wales

Other Committee members

Colin Clark, Helen Green, Wendy Stockley and Maria Newton

Ben Chapman nominated the motion to re-elect the committee and Simon Heale seconded.

We are always looking for new committee members – please volunteer.

Any Other Business

The result of the poll to select the local charity for the year was announced. Dorothy House was the winner.

Guest Speakers

Cllrs Dr Yuktasher Kumar and Manda Rigby updated us on local issues and answered questions.

A brief round-up of the issues:-

- Cleveland pools to open this summer but no firm date.
- Bath Rugby stadium – no outstanding planning applications - carpark application withdrawn.
- Complaints have been received about 20mph speed limit on whole of hill. In the middle of the hill this is considered by some to be too slow and encouraged speeding and dangerous overtaking. 20mph is good for bottom and top of hill but difficult to impose limits going up and down within one road. Manda to speak to police. Volunteers to join community speed watch effort are welcome. Speeds and numbers of cars are monitored by rumble strips and fixed cameras. The consultation with our members about the 20mph limit showed 50:50 for and against for the whole hill but most people were in favour of 20mph at the bottom of the hill.
- CAZ – results for 2 years have shown a 20% decrease in NO2 within the CAZ and interestingly also outside CAZ so it seems is not just moving the pollution. It was mooted that this may have been affected by the closure of Cleveland Bridge but Manda said this had been adjusted for and it was thought that number of non-compliant vehicles was reducing. Success of initiative has led to discussion about extending with further consultation.
- Cleveland Bridge – HGVs still using but from recordings has been seen to be only 1% of traffic using bridge is HGV traffic and they are chased up.
- Canal tow path – Funding from CIL received for £40k towards repairs to the path between Bathwick Hill and Widcombe top lock.
- Raby Place party house – all applications have been turned down and they have been served with an official enforcement notice and are still within the 60 days they are given to respond. When 60 days has passed we expect another application to be made around the B&B permissions but it is felt they will fail eventually. One resident of the Moorings is adversely affected by the CCTV cameras on 18 Raby Place that point into his windows. Manda says this is part of the enforcement effort. The cameras are there to back up the applicants claims that they are monitoring behaviour of guests.
- Ring of steel – Manda said the police have indicated that Bath is at high risk of pedestrian or vehicle attack and so the restrictions must continue during the daytime even though the cost is very high. This is common to all city centres with the same footfall / diversity of visitors / important monuments.
- Funding - Condition of streets and pavements in Bath raised – not in keeping with UNESCO site city. Shortage of resources as always with roads given priority over pavements because of the statutory duty to maintain them. Adult and child social care uses a huge proportion of BANES' budget. WECA may be able to give some funding. A group of similar cities in the UK are grouping together to lobby government to change the law to allow the charging of a tourist tax for special cities.
- Student contribution to Bath - Students pay no council tax and the businesses running student accommodation pay no business tax but the university does not contribute to funding for Bath. Airbnb properties also pay no business tax or council tax – law is lagging behind.
- Tourist office – there is still no tourist office in Bath.
- Litter picking efforts on the hill have included volunteers from the university and a local primary school. Bathwick fields to be covered again. Weeding pavements takes place with regard to environmental impact of weedkillers and hot foam is used in places. House owners are urged to keep their own frontage clear. The council can help with taking away any rubbish / weeds when weeding or clearance sessions arranged. Contact BHRA for information on this.
- Parking on the hill – halfway up the hill the residents parking restrictions are not in place and parking is unrestricted. These places are often used for weeks at a time by non-residents parking for

extended time periods while they visit Bath. Parking officers have been alerted and a consultation is expected soon. Options to include no return within 2 / 3 / 4 hours spaces.

- Sydney Gardens – heritage lottery fund included funding for 3 years of maintenance and the friends of Sydney gardens are very active volunteers so the much appreciated improved gardens are secure for the near future.
- Community centre rooms – shortly to go online for booking – well used already according to Manda for meetings etc.
- Electric vehicle charging points – Manda reported that Bath has only one “pipe” bringing electricity into Bath and we would need 3 new substations to give enough electricity for full provision for electric vehicle charging points. Options are being looked at including flash charging points at out-of-town shops so a vehicle can be recharged while shopping – recharging in half an hour or so. Issues regarding the problems of recharging cars from houses that do not have off street parking. Gutters for cables across pavements are being considered but this relies on a car owner being able to park outside his house.
- Upgrading listed buildings – some permissions have been relaxed as part of the local plan partial update - to allow for thin line double glazing– solar very restricted – acting in conjunction with English Heritage.