

Cheltenham Civic Society CIO – Executive Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held at 5p.m. on Monday 21st June 2021 at 5 p.m. by Zoom

Register

Trustees:

Claire Attenborough (CA) (Treasurer)

Tess Beck (TB)

Andrew Booton (AB) (Chair)

Steve Bryson (SB)

Sarah Harvey (SH)

Mike Richardson (MR) (Secretary)

Peter Sayers (PS) (Vice Chair)

Apologies

Hugh Curran (HC)

1. Introduction.

- a. The Chair apologised for the delay in starting the meeting caused by an attempt to overcome the Hon Secretary's problems with interference to Zoom access.
- b. **Planning Enforcement Officer.** Two candidates withdrew from the Cheltenham Borough Council selection process. The Planning Department have to re-justify the position

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th May

The Minutes were **approved.**

3. Matters Arising

- a. **Finance.** CA has closed the account which pre-dated the CIO so only one account is now running. Some membership fees are still being paid into the closed account.
- b. The current account holds approximately £47,000. Currently there is little activity apart from the routine payments linked to Parmoor House.
- c. All Trustees have agreed to the new Logo. SH and SB have made a tiny adjustment to vertically align the lettering on the bottom row. The new version will be Emailed to the Committee.

The Chair congratulated SB and SH on a great job of developing the new logo and for managing to include the comments made by Committee members. The device is very clear and modernises our brand. Is it important that it is launched on the Website and Social Media at the same time.

Specimen letterheads (important in our written communications with outside bodies) and business cards will be prepared.

4. Updates.

a. Events. The Chair commented at the May meeting that the country is returning to normality after the problems of Covid and we should aim to launch our programme at a Summer Garden Party in mid to late August. We need to a lecture programme for each of September, October, November and December and continue this on one a month into the new year.

Current ideas include talks by two former members of the Planning Forum on modern architecture and proposed public spaces.

The Chair proposed that we should shelve Patterson Memorial Lectures; in previous years Douglas Ogle had many contacts but we have had difficulties since he stood down. Covid has provided a natural break and this will give us an opportunity for alternative events in future without binding ourselves into a pattern. We can dedicate rooms or other memorials in memory of individuals if we wish.

The Chair will check there are no funds left for Memorial Lectures. **AB**

We plan to use the updated Community Centre facilities of St Philip and St James' Church in Gratton Road for future events. It provides good space for lectures with additional circulation space, good car parking and accessibility. An Open Evening with a talk and walk around the building might be arranged at some time in the future. The Chair mentioned a Winter Party in late January, possibly at St Philip and St James

Are there ways of streaming events to people who could not attend, on Zoom and Facebook Live for example so there is access on demand? This would need buying our own AV equipment including camera, microphone and stabiliser. We will need to find someone with the knowledge and the time to undertake this. AB will talk to HC and TB about this idea.

The meeting agreed to make events free for members and Eventbrite booking would allow us to filter for members and non members.

PC and his team are re-formatting their Cheltenham walks. Very few tourists are coming to Cheltenham due to the Covid regulations which limits the number of people on the walks. SH commented that ten people per walks seems to be the right number as it allows to maintain a distance from other

people, especially on pavements and also for the tour members to hear the guide. Overall it is a better number to manage. We should try a series of walks before opening them to the wider membership and plan to run more than one on each topic.

- b. Comms.** SB reported we have received good comments on Twitter. We have 860 followers, mostly groups across the country and others with links to planning for example. We need to capitalise on that plus Instagram to reach a younger audience.

- c. Campaigns** The Chair is liaising with HC

The Successful Streets Group with PS is working on the Rodney Road Car Park and trustees agreed to fund an Artist's impression for the proposal. Now awaiting CBC's feedback and lead.

The Minster Churchyard was talked about at the Planning Forum. Details will follow once PR embargo is lifted.

Pruning of trees is not in accordance with the relevant British Standard so AB will write to the Chief Executive of CBC and the Chief Executive of GCC to convene a meeting to discuss compliance and improvement process.

- d. HODs** SH said there has been a great response to the HODs week with 46 events offered. These include 21 open buildings. The programme is being worked up at the moment with dates being firmed up ahead of the launch in mid-July. Most of the offers are walks and talks. There will be an article in Our Town about them.

- e. Planning** PS told the Committee that members of the Planning Forum are sharing their comments on the selected applications before the meeting in order to improve the quality of their responses. An audit is underway to assess the efficacy of PF's comments on planning matters and whether the outcomes reflected our views.

- f. Other Updates** Membership numbers are on track but not increasing. A programme of events may drive footfall and membership upwards.

- g. Any Other Business.** None reported

- h. Date of Next Meeting** Monday 12th July at 5 p.m. Parmoor House

Agreed dates (all are Mondays) for future meetings of the Executive Committee during 2021 and 2022 are

12 July

13 September

15th November

10th January 2022

The Annual General Meeting is planned for Wednesday 6th April 2022