

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING : MINUTES

Registered Charity no. 1166580

- Date:** 15th November 2021 at 5 p.m.
- Venue:** Parmoor House
- Present:** Andrew Booton (AB – Chair), Peter Sayers (PS – Vice Chair), Mike Richardson (MR – Secretary), Hugh Curran (HC), Sarah Harvey (SH), Tess Beck (TB)
- Apologies:** Claire Attenborough (CA – Treasurer), Steve Bryson (SB),
- Next Meeting:** 5pm Monday 14th January 2022
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Action

- 1. Introduction**

The Chair stated that the main matters for this meeting were to summarise the arrangements for the Civic Awards evening on 13th December, to discuss a Civic Society questionnaire and to concentrate on Campaigns for 2022.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2021**

The minutes were approved.
- 3. Matters arising**
 - 3.1 Finance. Income in October and November was small. The main expenditure in the two months was for Printing. Other expenditure was on routine payments for Parmoor House. The current account holds approximately £39,000.
 - 3.2 Parmoor House. The Chair confirmed that an offer for Parmoor House has been accepted and Savills expect that the sale may be completed in January 2022.
 - 3.3 Trustees Annual Report for 2020. The Secretary confirmed that the Trustees Annual Report was completed on time and the Charity Commission have confirmed it has been received
- 4. Updates**
 - 4.1 Campaigns**
 1. **Proposal to list Regency town houses on Regent Street.** Eight former townhouses have been subsumed into the back of Cavendish House. Our research indicates they were built at the same time as the houses on the opposite side of the road. They contribute significantly to the streetscene of Regent Street. The Georgian Group and Cheltenham Borough Council's

Conservation Officer are supporting the listing proposal. The Trustees agreed unanimously to support the proposal.

2. **Electric Scooters.** The trial of electric scooters in Cheltenham is being extended to 31st March 2022; views of the public are sought although the method by which comments can be made is not transparent. Civic Voice to be approached to see how other towns with these trials are planning to comment. Agreed to defer this matter to January but a paper will be prepared on what we should do and how to do it. HC
3. **Highways.** HC and AB have taken part in a meeting with officers from GCC Highways and CBC. GCC's contractors have started reinstating stone on the Promenade instead of the tarmac infills. The group will meet again at two monthly intervals. Our next priorities are Cambray Place and Pittville gates. HC
4. **Reporting.** Street Pride have set up some forms to enable the public to comment on areas of need in the town with photographs if possible. This can then be compiled into categories so the top six can be shared with the two councils for action as performance measures. The system needs more publicity. Society members have identified ten issues so far. Using the system may require access to a Google Account. Fix My Street may also be useful for some specific areas but it is outside our control. The Society needs to feed in information from other groups who may not use our link.
5. **The Strand/High Street.** The John Lewis Partnership paid for repaving part of the High Street in 2016 but the road remains the responsibility of CBC as GCC has not adopted it due to the poor quality of work and materials. CBC holds £1m in the CIL fund from developers which could be used to address some of the area's issues. The former Sports Direct shop in The Strand has been empty for more than 3 years and the doors patched up with wood panels. The Society will continue to press CBC for more robust s215 enforcement action. We will also be meeting with BID, CBC and the Chamber of Commerce to push businesses to take more responsibility. AB

4.2 Comms

- 1 The Society gained over 1000 followers on Twitter last week, 15 so far this week., Facebook follower growth is slower. SH will take over the Instagram account.

4.3 Events

1. The Civic Awards ceremony will take place on Monday 13th December at Pip & Jim's, starting at 7.30pm. All people on the distribution list will be invited, including GCC and CBC Councillors. The Certificates for Award winners will be framed and photographs will be taken on the stage. SB to arrange a photographer. SB
- Red and white wines, orange juice and water will be provided MR
- All Trustees will be requested to help set up the event All

2. **Events in the New Year.** SH will assume responsibility for events. AB and SH to liaise. Consideration to be given to walks and routine meetings for all members to be updated rather than relying on external speakers. SH

4.4 HODs

1. The national theme for HODs will be known in January. A new ticket seller will be required in 2022. We had problems with reallocating returned tickets last year – TB has offered to help. Feedback from the organisations involved last year has been good and many want to be involved again. We hope to get more business people involved. Getting some ‘Behind the scenes’ in shops and restaurants would be an attraction, but this depends on the national theme SH

4.5 Planning

1. **General.** The Chair of the Planning Forum wrote to the Head of Planning outlining concerns over the validation process. This was delegated from Tracey Crews to the new Interim Head of Planning but we have had no response after 8 weeks. This matter needs to be escalated. PS
2. **Cambray Court.** The Freeholder of Cambray Court has planning permission to demolish the garages and rebuild the retaining wall along the Chelt and the garages in the same position. CCS PF believes there is a better way to achieve the same ends by opening up both banks of the Chelt and creating a green area for the public on the south side, which is owned by CBC. CBC supports CCS’ proposal in principle. If the Society applies for Planning Permission the Environment Agency can reply formally to the proposal. The proposal will show that we are serious about improving a heavily tarmaced area, for good civic benefit at a reduced environmental and physical cost. The Trustees unanimously supported a budget of £1,000 for planning permission and civil engineering advice for the PF to apply for planning consent for their proposed scheme.

5 Other Business

1. **Tourist Information Centres.** The Wilson is due to be reopened in March 2022. CBC is reviewing its contract with the Cheltenham Trust and a decision will be made on the reopening of the TIC at the Cabinet meeting in December. The alternative proposal is for an online kiosk for tourist information near the taxi rank in Royal Well. CCS is concerned that virtual information sources are inadequate. TB to contact TURF and Cheltenham Hospitality Association and other interested parties. CBC’s decision to be monitored. SH/TB
2. **Parmoor House.** We need an action plan to clear Parmoor House and to offer surplus material to appropriate charities. An inventory has been prepared. MR/TB

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 10TH January 2022 at 5pm

Agreed dates for future meetings (all on Mondays) during 2022 are:

10 th January	18 th July
14 th March	19 th September
16 th May	28 th November

The Annual General Meeting is planned for Wednesday 6th April