

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING : MINUTES

Registered Charity no. 1166580

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Venue:** By Zoom

**Present:** Andrew Booton (AB – Chair), Peter Sayers (PS – Vice Chair), Mike Richardson (MR – Secretary), Claire Attenborough (CA – Treasurer), Steve Bryson (SB), Tess Beck (TB)

**Apologies:** Hugh Curran (HC), Sarah Harvey (SH)

**Next Meeting:** 5pm Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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### Action

#### 1. Introduction

The Chair stated the purpose of the meeting was to bring Trustees up to date with developments since the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Liam Jones has been appointed as Head of Planning for Cheltenham Borough Council and will start 16<sup>th</sup> February.

The Chair was invited to a meeting with CBC's Chief Executive Gareth Edmundson and Leader Rowena Hay. He stressed that the Society is here to help the Council and is keen to find opportunities to do so

The Government issued its policy on Temporary Structures on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and claimed there had been public consultation although nobody, including CBC, can remember being consulted. There are restrictions on temporary structures on Listed Buildings but not in Conservation Areas. Structures at listed buildings are limited to 120 days in any twelve month period but it is unclear whether this is over a single period or an overall total number of days. We will monitor the situation.

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

The minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

#### 3. Finance

3.1 A summary of November and December 2021 income and expenditure had been circulated before the meeting. The closing balance for the financial year 2021 was £31,979.07. Payments included the Civic Awards costs.

3.2 Some room hire payments are coming in but not at the level earlier in the year. Willans had asked to be paid in December for their work in relation to Parmoor

House as their financial year ended in December. A big bill from Utility ehouse for power will be checked although it was noted that commercial use is not subject to the capping given to domestic charges. CA

3.3 Annual subscriptions will increase our income in January and February.

#### 4. Review of the Civic Awards 2021

4.1. The Civic Awards ceremony was considered to be very successful and the Society has had good feedback. A revised SOP will be created for future events AB

4.2 All the winners have asked for a Blue Plaque; they are always appreciated. Quotations for these are awaited. It was suggested winners contribute 50% of the cost as the full cost of the Civic Awards this time are being borne by the Society, (CBC are not contributing). Commercial premises will be invited to meet the full costs. AB

4.3 The Society has not given cut glass awards this time and also reduced the cost of the certificates to £30. Costs in 2019 were £5,000 with CBC contributing £3,000. We have made big savings this time.

4.4. The Civic Awards featured in the December issues of Our Town with a photo supplement. Extra copies have been printed.

#### 5. Updates

##### 5.1 Campaigns

SB was thanked for the Achievements list which is keeping track of what we are doing and is much appreciated. Another list will be produced in early February before Our Town. Contributions will be welcome. ALL

AB has received improved links with GCC Highways on repairs to roads and pavements. The tarmac will be replaced with paving slabs in Cambray Place by the end of January 2022. Work has been done on roads and potholes but pavements are still bad.

CBC has rebranded Boots Corner as Clarence Fountain and unveiled a scheme for its reconfiguration. CCS, BID and others had no idea of the proposal and AB expressed our disappointment with this lack of consultation to the Leader of CBC and its Chief Executive.

PS and AB represented CCS' views on Minster Gardens. Minster Exchange is under way but has attracted criticism before the cladding has been installed. The Wilson is being refitted this year but there has been no consultation And CBC still has not decided the fate of the Tourist Information Centre. CSS has been asked to help establish a 'Friends' organization and to assist with fund raising for one or more elements of the Garden as CBC realise that a charity may be able to open doors, have access to grants and other approaches and encourage other groups to get involved.

## 5.2 HODs.

We have our first meeting of 2022 on 18th January at 11 a.m. to plan for 2022. The National theme for Heritage Open Days 2022 is 'Astounding Inventions' and dates are 9th – 18th September. SH will apply to Cheltenham Borough Council for the £2,000 grant SH

## 5.3 Events

SH has assumed responsibility for events and is drafting a programme to include talks, 'routine' meetings and walks in the warmer months

David Elder, local historian, has agreed to host a talk about Dr E T Wilson on Monday 7th February. SH will discuss new contacts for future events with AB. If any of the trustees have suggestions for future event topic/speakers please give SH the contact details, she will follow up. ALL

## 5.4 Planning

Historic England has refused to consider listing the former townhouses on Regent Street as they are under pressure not to take on any more listed buildings. We will liaise with CBC And the Georgian Group over the matter.

The Cambray Court team is liaising with the Environment Agency to see what might be possible but a number of options are open. SB advocated the opportunity to deliver a positive PR from any course of action.

## 5.5. Comms

Our Town postal copies were distributed last week so everyone should now have got them. Electronic flip version is popular as a quick read.

We need to get people to write – PS to ask members of the Planning Forum to provide. A call for articles to be included in the next edition. SB

## 6. AOB

### 6.1 Meeting venue

Pip and Jim's worked quite well for the Civic Awards but is unsuitable for smaller meetings. The side chapel (Lady Chapel?) can seat up to 30. We could use this room or find an alternative venue. SH

**7. Date of next meeting**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm. Location to be advised. The purpose will be preparation for the Annual General Meeting.

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

14<sup>th</sup> March    16<sup>th</sup> May    18<sup>th</sup> July    19<sup>th</sup> September    28<sup>th</sup> November

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022