

## **FoPP Committee Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2021, 18.00, by Zoom**

**Present:** Carol Cole (CC), Kerry Pickett (KP), Clive Shepherd (CS), Joe McNulty (JM), Andy Jeavons (AJ), Dimitri Mehandziski (DM), Beatrice Moreau-Gray (BMG)

**Apologies:** Rose Jones (RJ)

### **1) FoPP committee resignation**

Mike McGuinness has notified the FoPP committee that he must regretfully resign as a member as the ongoing club house development for St. Peter's Cricket Club is taking up much of his time. However, he and the SPCC Chair, Greg Lee will continue to support FoPP. The committee would like to thank Mike for all his help.

### **2) Minutes of last meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 and action points**

The acceptance of the minutes of the last FoPP general committee meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020, was proposed by CC and accepted by all present.

As agreed, a donation of £50 each was made by FoPP to the Brighton Food Bank and the Brighton Unemployed Centre, which provides cheap hot meals for the unemployed and their families.

Action:

- CC noted that due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation the committee is unable to engage with any proposed events for Easter or possibly even summer. Therefore, CC will wait until a later date in relation to contacting Pride CEO, Paul Kemp with regard to phasing closed off areas to the general public during Pride.
- The latest edition of the newsletter should be completed this week. CC to include the parking enforcement phone number and other useful numbers.
- CC will contact the Wild Camping website to ask them to remove PP as a potential overnight stop for campers. (However, it was also noted by BMG that overnight camping had currently stopped.)
- Chris Drake, Development and Operations Manager, Preston Manor, is currently unavailable for contact but, AJ will try and get in contact this week. CC and BMG will also contact Hedley Swain, Chief Executive of the Royal Pavilion and Museum's Trust to try and mediate a solution to the issue of volunteers in the Walled Garden.

- With regard to the bequeathed elms, CC has contacted Peter Bourne, but is yet to receive a response.
- Regarding the trialling of recycling bins in the park and the issue of whether to allow BBQs, CC will contact Alan Griffiths to find out the status of the trial.
- AJ will contact Alan Griffiths regarding the status of the wild flower meadow for 2021 i.e. will it be rotivated and re-seeded?
- With regard to FoPP's anti-social behaviour prevention campaign for 2021, BMG attempted to make contact with three local schools with the aim of organising a summer art event in the park, but so far has not received a response. This is probably due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of all schools. Therefore, she will make further contact once the schools have returned and are fully operational.

### **3) Councillor's request for planting fruit trees**

Councillor Siriol Hugh-Jones made a request to FoPP to make a donation towards the buying and planting of fruit trees in PP with the Permaculture Trust. However, since the initial request was made, it was decided that our donation was no longer needed. As the Permaculture Trust trees already planted at Surrenden Fields are very small, CC suggested that FoPP buy some more mature fruit trees to be planted in another area of PP to help fulfil Councillor Hugh-Jones' vision expressed at our last AGM. A proposal of £500 was agreed by the committee to set aside for the project. Subject to advice from the park arborist, trees will be sourced, bought and planted this spring.

Action:

- AJ to contact the new park arborist for advice regarding tree type.

### **4) Rotunda pond update**

Work has been conducted on the Rotunda Pond, however, it is envisaged that more needs to be done. AJ noted that two new signs are to be erected to explain to the general public the impact of introducing elements to the pond that shouldn't be there, such as eels.

Action:

- AJ to contact 'Pete the Pond' for a date on when work will recommence.

### **5) Cherry tree avenue proposal**

AJ proposed an idea to create an avenue of cherry trees on either side of the Dahlia Walk up to the Rose Garden, transversed by another line of cherry trees from the Fitnesshub Pavilion down to the A23. Around 160 trees, in all. Funding will be sought from tree sponsorship or

donations. The committee agreed that it is an excellent idea. The local councillors are also in agreement.

Action:

- AJ to request permission for the project from City Parks and to assess an initial budget.

#### **6) Refurbishment of the children's playground area**

Stella Richardson (SR) from City Parks has sent a letter outlining a plan to refurbish the children's playground area in PP later this year. It was agreed that CC would add the plan to the newsletter and ask for the general public's feedback which will be relayed back to City Parks.

Action:

- CC to contact SR to ask if she would like us to broaden the feedback and add the information to the newsletter.

#### **7) Request for support**

Anna Kemper (AK) has requested support for a 'pop up' performance production to be held in PP in the summer. The idea is aimed at engaging younger age groups and families. The committee is generally in support, but needs more information before committing further at this stage. It was agreed it would be nice to offer this to the public and that we could offer help with publicity, council contacts, etc..

Action:

- BMG to contact AK to offer support and to request further information with regard to her expectations from us.

#### **AOB and next meeting**

**Pathways** – KP made a suggestion that PP could have some pathways laid similar to the successful ones recently laid in Stanmer Park using Type 1 MOT materials. It was suggested that money raised from parking payments might be used to fund this project as well as other forms.

Action:

- CC to contact Stella Richardson and Paul Campbell to request a zoom meeting in which to discuss this and other projects such as a park outdoor gym.

**Plants re-ordered** – Following the unforeseen need to cancel the plant order due to Covid-19, the plants have now been re-ordered and should arrive by the end of March/beginning of April. They will be stored near the Manor House. A new fence for the north end of the Rockery has also arrived.

**Rose Garden** - AJ asked if it would be possible to make the Rose Garden an area where dogs are permitted to remain on leads. This would stop them jumping in the pond and running in the roses.

Action:

- CC to contact the councillors to assess if this might be possible.

The meeting ended at 19.35.

The next meeting will be held on 6/7/8 April. Tbc via Slack.