



## **FoRP COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm | The Pavilion**

**Present:** Sian Ellis-Thomas (Chair), Lesley Powell (Vice Chair), Matt Norris, Ben Skingley, Mike Alden

**Apologies:** Claudia Collins, Carole Hall, Teresa Henstridge, Campbell Hutchison.

- 1. Approval of minutes last meeting – June 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (Emergency Meeting) 2023.** All present approved minutes.
- 2. Accounts / Financial update –**
  - We have appointed an accountant – based at The Park, Daventry Rd to prepare and submit our accounts as required by Companies House and Inland Revenue. The accountant advised us to seek exemption from Corporation Tax. This has been done, we await response.
  - Update on financial status – Bank account etc verbal. Account status provided in hard copy.
  - Income from Balloon launch –  
Total (net) raised from raffle and donations The hugely successful day brought in £3047 from the raffle and donations into FoRP coffers. It also provided a great day for the Community Garden.
  - Member Subscription status  
We currently have **31 annual subscribers**, generating £530 pa – we need to encourage more people to join us.



QR suggested as a being added to website and posters in the park once we get new notice boards and a 'tap and go' payment pad to be considered in the future.

Only 4 members of the committee have subscribed.

**The basic costs of running FORP are £1000+ per year – this includes, website, mailboxes, domain and annual accounting.**

- Walking Football donation.

We were contacted by Ian Brailey of Bristol United Walking Football Club who had voted (he spoke with us then pitched to his committee) to donate the surplus £1000 funds from their annual subscriptions to the park – and suggested that the funds be used to support the Park Knowle activities in the park, as they suggested the donation should ideally be used for something football related in the park. Due to protracted negotiations about the Pavilion lease (see later) and Park Knowle FC needing urgent pitch lining equipment and junior nets to assist with games in Redcatch Park we asked Ian if the committee would allow Park Knowle to use the £1000 for that purpose and we're pleased to advise that they have agreed. Mike Alden will purchase new items to the value of £1000 and provide receipts.

- Pollinator funding,

The Community Garden have been successful in securing funds from WECA to be spent on all things pollinator (aligned with the deliverables in their bid). This includes a partnership with FoRP to provide up to £8k to be spent on Pollinator friendly plants, shrubs, trees etc. We have already engaged with Steve Clampin from 'Parks' who is very



knowledgeable and who will willingly provide information about planting ideas as and when we're ready to draw up our plan. We intend to sketch out a plan of the park and mark up our ideas. We would like to get the local children and YP groups involved – perhaps a raised bed / standard bed identified for a particular group – such as Scouts, Guides etc. We'll circulate plan and ideas for feedback and discussion over the next couple of months. Any ideas from the committee will be gratefully received.

- Money from Salcombe Rd Playing Field sale (£56k)

As previously advised £56k of BCC funding is being made available for capital (ie not maintenance items) expenditure in Redcatch Park/ Knowle Green Spaces. A list was formulated some months ago, in collaboration with RCG and Cllrs and was signed off and submitted. The money is finally being released in stages, controlled by BCC. RCG are purchasing some sturdy timber gazebos (similar to the one already purchased by them and erected). Construction on these has commenced.

We also asked for money to buy new notice boards for the Park, a Cableway (zip wire) and launch platform, a new roundabout for the play area. We await update as to when we can purchase these. But it may have to wait until the overall Park Vision is formulated of which more later. Some of the £56k (£10k) was due to go to Windmill Hill Ward but we're unsure whether this is still the case as Windmill Hill has received significant alternative funding. Also some mini goal posts were identified for Salcombe Rd Playing Fields, status of that unknown.



Relations with our local Councillors are obviously not currently amenable to meaningful conversations about these points but we are in direct contact with Susy Feltham a senior officer who is overseeing all this expenditure.

- Carol Hall book keeper – Is leaving us at the end of November. We need a new book keeper. Any takers? We will advertise on our Facebook page next week.

### **3. FoRP Complaint – Verbal update**

All nine committee members had previously confirmed that they supported the option for FoRP available funds (after 12 months operational costs and the £1000 ringfenced funding from Walking Football, this is about £2k) to be used to support the legal bill already paid by Sian and Lesley to respond to the claim against them / FoRP.

**Vote:** The members present at the meeting reconfirmed their approval to do this. **Missing members to be asked to re confirm approval.**

Whether Sian and Lesley take this option is yet to be determined as whilst thus far the costs (value almost £10k) have been paid / are to be invoiced to them, they are both reluctant to take the money from FoRP funds, despite the issue being a FoRP issue NOT just a Sian / Lesley issue. Option to be left open.

An option has been considered (in particular if the issue progresses to the next stage) is to set up a crowdfunder page to pay for all costs.

Options were discussed and all present at the meeting agreed that the Private Crowdfunder route (circulated between Committee's own



contacts and not sharable) is best pursued, however raised funds have to be transacted via the appointed solicitors IF the Solicitor firm agrees it can facilitate this. Any surplus funds raised would remain in FoRP bank account for use in the park. All present at the meeting agreed that the Private Crowdfunder route can be pursued if required. **Absent**  
**Committee members to be consulted for a majority vote.**

#### **4. Tennis Court Update**

Brief background - BCC are no longer maintaining the tennis courts. The courts need maintenance now (clean, paint, reline, quote is circa £16k) and another £90k estimated for a complete resurface in 7-10 years. Alternative funding models explored. Lawn Tennis Association funding is available but only if a sustainable maintenance model exists. BCC agreed to consultation on a Pay to Play managed by WESPORT (a charity) which is already successfully operating in Eastville, St Georges and Canford Parks. (£35 per HOUSEHOLD per YEAR, £25 for Concessions). The benefits include childrens free tennis lessons, secure gated access, booking system, some flood lighting if Planning secured etc (to be discussed and agreed). BCC have decided to proceed and we understand our local Cllr/s has met with WESPORT. WESPORT keen to meet and their representative can do a meeting any time including evenings and weekends, Monday's is preferred. Matt and Ben indicated they would be happy to attend if possible. Sian and Les to set up date and advise committee and invite attendees.



## 5. Newsletter

Apart from Social Media, FoRP has no voice / right to reply to ensure a balanced narrative about park stuff is circulated in the community other than that from KCP. This caused issues with the Tennis Pay to Play model consultation, therefore we're suggesting a regular (monthly at first to gauge workload and sufficiency of content) digital newsletter to our website mailing list, paid members and our Facebook page followers to ensure the park community are kept informed of **actual news** about the Park. Anyone from the committee can submit content and we will also invite content from our community. We hope to launch this in November. We would circulate the draft to the Committee for sign off before publication of each issue.

**Vote: – all present agreed. Other committee members to be asked to vote by email.**

## 6. Redcatch Clothing Exchange

Whilst this has been a successful community event and covered its costs, takings over the 3 events steadily declined and we've decided the significant amount of time to manage it is not reflected in the income, therefore the 'Big Redcatch Jumble Sale' later this month (sat 21<sup>st</sup> October) will see all the stock of clothes sold off and surplus donated to YMCA. We'll put our efforts into seeking funds from organisations and the ad hoc events such as the Balloon Launch. We may also decide to do an annual jumble sale.



Big thanks to Matt Norris for hosting the event at the Church.

## **7. Pavilion Sport Asset Transfer (SAT) update**

Some 3 years ago, Park Knowle in association with RCG submitted an EOI to take over the Pavilion on a Sports Asset Transfer (SAT). In this time BCC have not moved this forward and, as we know, in that time RCG have been through their own torturous battle with BCC over their own Asset Transfer which has left them with no energy to do it again, at the current time. Meanwhile BCC eventually appointed two people to manage the SAT process. In a meeting with RCG it became obvious that the person appointed to deal with Redcatch Park had a lot of history to catch up on and could not answer any of the many Questions – such as ‘will the transfer come with funding’ and ‘what rent will be expected’ etc etc. Les has continued to speak to the FA who are also liaising with BCC. Parks Dept have spoken with Park Knowle FC but advised that FoRP were not to be included in the discussions.....the long and short is that there are numerous people all talking about this (not least our Cllr) and a lot of mis information is being banded. We’ll try to input if it’s useful however we feel were best out of it for now as there are so many involved and none of them seem to know what’s going on.....so the Pavilion won’t have working showers or FA Compliant accommodation any time soon....

But Ellie King Cabinet Member for Parks is still trying to bring the park stakeholders together for a round table convo and we’ve agreed to take part, if it’s felt we can provide positive contribution, so who knows? We’ll keep you posted.



Mike Alden meeting with Steff Probert and others Monday 16 October 2023, at 18.30 at Park Knowle FC. Les has advised Cllr Ellie King, Somerset FA, RCG etc.

## **8. Events 2024**

Sian and Les have been somewhat diverted recently (as the committee is aware) and therefore not fully engaged with planning next years events. Hovering in the background is the idea of a Earthfest weekend as we'd hoped to do this year and potentially combining this with another balloon launch. Due to the current 'pressures', we are not yet putting any big dates in the diary for 2024. However, if any other committee members want to get involved with organising any events etc then please let us know then feel free to step up.

## **9. Volunteer activities**

Since last September we have held four volunteer sessions to try to get on top of all the weeds in the shrub and flower beds. We need to step this up as it's a mammoth task now BCC are not doing anything in that regard. We'd would've undoubtedly done more if not for the external issue we've been dealing with. We're hoping for more Corporate group days, as with the help of the corporate group and us making 14, we managed to clear one bed (the long one adj the tennis courts) in 5 hours. We have also been approached by a UWE student who want to volunteer regularly. Sian seeing them next week.





BCC Parks have confirmed supply of 1000 bulbs – a volunteer day or three will be needed from next week once these bulbs arrive THIS WEEK!

### **10. Redcatch Quarter Development**

Planning was refused unanimously, 9 0. then this was overturned 5 4. The Sec of State decided not to 'call in' the planning fiasco so currently the Planning stands as approved. However, a community Crowdfunder has raised funds for the commencement of a Judicial Review. We're awaiting an update on that.

Since the decision, we've met once with the developers and told them that we are creating a Park Vision document and will liaise further with them later.

### **11. Park Vision Doc**

We are working on a park vision document to present to Susy Feltham who is the Parks Project manager. This is a doc that will gather the ideas for the long term plans for the park 5-10 years. The aim is to use the results of the park user survey and Playground & Exercise user survey as the base, together with the projected needs of the park community if/when the Redcatch Quarter development goes ahead. We have already spoken to Susy and the RQ developers and will flesh the first draft of this out over the next few weeks and share it with you. We'll draft, present to Committee for feedback, update the draft and propose some community consultation around the draft.



Ben suggested the shaping the vision could involve clustering of ideas around things like:

- Children and Young people
- Accessibility
- Fitness
- Sport
- Nature and environment
- Safety

#### **12.Area CIL funding update:**

We have prepared several proposals for some of this pot of money (about £63k) which is distributed among community projects in Knowle including parks. It's a bit of a bun fight who gets what as it's decided by an area committee of 6 local wards. Knowle is Ward Area 5.

#### **13.ASB and Police Communications**

We've not had any recent issues that we're aware of – long may it last.

#### **14.AOB**

**It will be our first year-end in January and so our next meeting will be the AGM – 10<sup>th</sup> January – please put this in your diaries.**