

# **Prestonville Community Association Committee Meeting**

12 September 2013

Chimney House Public House

Present: Marek Kohn (Chair), Jannet King (Hon Sec), Mike Gourley, Martin Poole, Mike Jones

## **1 Apologies (post meeting):** Alison Whiteoak

Dinah Tracey has now moved from the area and has therefore resigned from the Committee.

## **2 Minutes** – approved

## **3 Matters arising:**

Prestonville Friend It had been agreed at the latest FoDRP meeting that the Community Garden group would write an article (deadline 19 Sept) to include a photo.

The PCA will have a short item along the bottom of the page, about how we now meet in the pub, and anyone is welcome to join us. Also include: 15 December – Community Carols

## **4 BHASVIC Field**

Martin Poole reported on the public meeting on 9 September, held in St Luke's. It had been attended by Chris Thomson (BHASVIC Head) and James Kilmartin (Newman Head).

The schools (including BHASVIC) had made strong objections to the Village Green bid, which has been submitted and is currently under consideration, based on legal advice they had obtained that if the field became a village green they would not be able to provide sufficient safeguarding for their pupils/students. (JK noted that some sympathy for this view had been expressed informally to her by users of Dyke Road Park.) The schools have suggested exploring the possibility of an arrangement brokered by Fields in Trust that could secure public access in perpetuity.

The VG bid will turn on the question of the basis on which the public have used the field. This could be difficult to determine and involve extensive legal argument.

MP said that he was disappointed that the Council seemed to be unable to take any lead on the matter. Mike Jones expressed the view that the best outcome would be an agreement whereby the schools feel they can keep their children safe, but that the public also has access to the field.

MK suggested that PCA might act as facilitators between Polly Strauss and Lou McCurdy, of FotF, Chris Thomson and James Kilmartin. It was agreed that **MK** would invite them to drinks and an informal meeting at the Vicarage.

## **5. FoDRP**

JK reported that members of the BOAT team had attended the most recent open meeting to describe the complicated processes the group was going through to obtain planning permission.

One of these involved consulting the local community. BOAT had produced a leaflet, and about 8 members of the FoDRP had volunteered to help distribute it.

The plans for the theatre included a sloping bank behind the tiered seating, which would take up much of the space the Friends group had thought would be available for their projects. It has been suggested that it could be sown with wild flowers.

There was a discussion about the extent to which the BOAT area would be available for public use, and of ensuring that the BOAT project is financially viable as an on-going concern so that we are not left, in a few years' time, with a 'white elephant'.

The Friends have resolved to make the most of other areas of the park. JK will be attending a meeting with our new Operations Manager Brian Mann, gardener Steve Golds, and Park Ranger Lindsay Cattanach on 18 September to survey the park and work out what improvements might be made in terms of planting.

### **6 Computer lessons for older people**

MK wondered whether this was something the PCA might be able to organise. MP pointed out that Age UK probably already does so. **MP** will email **MK** a contact.

If they can't do it, Mike Gourley said that he would.

### **7 Get-together with other local groups**

MK proposes something that we hold a Community Forum for representatives from groups who are active in our area and have overlapping interests: FoDRP, THGI, Trefoil Guild, Goldsmiths LAT, London Road LAT, Ditchling Rise (DRARA), Matlock Road people, Friends of Preston Park.

We could come together for refreshments, and then each group would have 5 mins to present a positive viewpoint of their area.

To be preceded by PCA AGM. **JK** to book the Hall for 30 January (done).

It was agreed that we should try and get the Hall for free, or for a discounted rate, given the fact that the PCA's fundraising activities had been severely curtailed by the THGI campaign.

### **8. Money and fund-raising.**

Money in bank: £1,108, broken down as follows:

FoDRP:	195
Community Garden:	350
Film Club:	100
PCA General Fund:	463

We need to turn the **Community Carols** into a PCA fundraiser.

### **9. Community Carols – 15 December**

**JK** to check with Hall manager Rob Whitehead that Hall is booked (done), to turn it into a PCA booking and try and ensure that we don't get charged (or charged at a discounted rate).

Last year, we broke even but made no profit. Takings remained consistent at around £75, but wine is getting more expensive. We need to find ways of reducing our costs (making mulled wine less strong!), and increasing donations.

We discussed the idea of getting a licence so that we could sell the wine, but felt that we would try one more year doing it on a donation basis, but make bigger notices, suggesting the size of the donation, and going round with the donations bowl. (JK also to include reference to donations on publicity.)

**MG** to do mulled wine (with help). Martin Moore and JK to advise about quantities. Maybe get wine on sale-or-return.

MP will supply mince pies (PCA to be charged).

We will also hold a raffle, which will be pure profit. JK and MP to liaise over obtaining raffle prizes.

We need to drum up a bit more help from past PCA members...

**JK** to invite Caroline Lucas.

### **11 Any other business**

**Tree** – A tree the PCA planted in Chatsworth Road has died, but the Council has agreed to replace it. MP said that one near the Church had not been replaced. **MK** and MP to confer.

**Anston House** – MK has emailed Council Planning Office to ask whether the developers of Anston House had any plans to replace the trees that had been illegally felled on the site some years ago. **MK** to send **MJ** a copy email for him to check.

**Cycle access on Dyke Road** – JK described her meeting with Abby Hone about Council plans to improve cycle access on Dyke Road between Tesco and BHASVIC (and to improve enforcement of lane north of Tesco junction).

MK proposed that we send a message to Abby Hone expressing our support. **JK** to send.

**Table tennis table in Dyke Road Park** – Our Park Ranger has put the park on the waiting list held by the Sports Development Officer for next time the Table Tennis Authority offers a table.

**First Aid Course** – MP said that the Church was running a First Aid Course early in October and offered a place to anyone on the PCA. MG and MK said they would like to go on it.

### **12 Date of next meeting**

**Wednesday 13 November**, 7.30pm, Prestonville Arms.

**MK** to ask for a table to be reserved for us in the raised area.