

FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Castle Green Pavilion, Hereford on
Thursday, 20th October, 2016 at 7.00pm

Present:

Helena McArdle, Elizabeth Johnston, Heidi Macdougall, Penny O'Dell, Liz Hughes, Maureen MacGregor, Keith Harmon, Heather Davies, Francis Aldhouse, Bill Davison, Colette Priestley, Dee Jones, Margaret Jones, Sue Griffin, Paul Jackson, Elizabeth Johnston, Mark & Amanda Malsom, Ian Yemm, Mark & Maggie Goddard, Shaneagh Moriarty, Aileen Hartnett, Amanda Attfield, Steve & Carrie Cameron, Annabel Oxford, Annie Lilwall, Katie Bott, Joy Harvey, Mark Hubbard and Lisa Richardson.

Apologies:

Michael Mable, Caroline Aldhouse, Ursula Attfield, Clarence Attfield, Mike Griffin, Paddy Nugent, Andree Poppleston, Julie Brown & Dave Quine, Wilma Gilmour, Arthur Lee.

Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as being a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Sue Griffin and **seconded** by Joy Harvey. Carried unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Looking Backward: Amanda reviewed the progress of the community Capital Asset Transfer of The Pavilion to Friends of Castle Green month by month through 2015, including the rewritten five year plan in March, further discussions with Dave Tristram in June, revisions in August, final submission in September. In October, Joy volunteered at the AGM and subsequently took over Mark's work on the Awards for All bid. November 2015 to October 2016 we are still waiting for news of the CAT but it must be fairly close now! Her aim is to celebrate the ancient history of the Castle Green, its place in the fabric of Hereford's community and to ensure its sustainability for future generations independent of political funding. She thanked all FoCG supporters and all the volunteers and paid tribute to the work of Katie Bott, the Operations Manager, who was now a permanent employee.

Looking forward: Over 3 years, Mark had developed the Awards for All bid for a £10K grant for a citywide consultation of the community and professionals on the future of the Pavilion, the results of which would then form part of the Hereford City Plan dovetailing with the Hfds. Council Core Strategy. With no CAT & so no security of tenure without which there can be no major grant funding plus a new business, less work was done on this until Joy arrived to write the bid with the help of Dave Tristram. This grant would facilitate the research needed for the very much larger amounts. The community kitchen was now fully equipped and licensed and able to work with the consultation process. Firstly, application had been made for a World Café programme of 14 events to develop the vision. These would consist of friendship groups of 32 invited to supper at The Pavilion. Seated at tables of 4, there would be a short presentation of the key questions – desired community use of the green, of the building and how to pay for it in this era of diminishing local authority spending – answers to be written on the paper tablecloths. Three of each four would move to another table and the process repeated in an atmosphere of friendship & collaboration so that everyone could have their say. The groups should be drawn from all over the city, north and south of the river, with a couple aimed at professionals. There would also be two High Town events to publicise the project and three 'Planning for Real' consultations on a larger scale – at the River Carnival, the Midsummer Fair and the Herefordshire Country Fair which was moving to Bishops Meadow in 2017. There will be a large plan of the area and people will be invited to pinpoint developments they would like to see on the Green and in the Pavilion. Planning starts from now and the project starts in February 2017 and hopefully, the first draft of the report will be brought to the

next AGM for discussion. The results should feed into a bid for £150,000 to do the pre-application work for the final application for approx.. £2 million. We would seek community rather than heritage funding. Every Hereford teenager has spent time on the Castle Green and all have their connection to this space, which the project will make sustainable for future generations.

From the floor Why does FoCG not register as a charity? Mark replied that this was an ongoing question on which we had received advice. As a Community Interest Company, we have to pay tax on any profit. If the profit was substantial it could set up a charity with a Board of Trustees to receive funds from the CIC but the increased workload that would generate militates against it at this stage.

Treasurers' Report

Steve underlined the need for a sustainable way forward as Herefordshire Council needs to find some £23 million savings over the next three years and maintenance of public open spaces is not a statutory requirement. He presented the Statement of Accounts for 2015, with the Income & Expenditure account and the Balance Sheet. There was a small loss of £7,816 for the year. This included £3,820 depreciation of fixed costs, higher running costs of the Pavilion and some events not breaking even or cancelled due to the weather. The position as at 14th October, 2016 was a reconciled cash at bank figure of £28,284 of which £10,000 is the Awards for All grant and is ringfenced, leaving the net usable funds at £18,284. Copies of the accounts had been circulated and additional copies were available.

Adoption of the accounts was **proposed** by Mark Goddard, **seconded** by Annie Lilwall and carried unanimously

Election and Ratification of Directors

The current Directors were willing to continue in post:

Chair: Amanda Attfield

Vice-Chair: Mark Hubbard

Treasurer: Steven Cameron

Board Secretary: Lisa Richardson

Community Engagement: Annabel Oxford

Building: Paddy Nugent

Re-election en bloc was **proposed** Francis Aldhouse, **seconded** by Ian Yemm and carried unanimously

The ratification of the appointment of Joy Harvey as Director, with responsibility for funding **Proposed** by Liz Highes, **seconded** by Mark Goddard and carried unanimously

Any Other Business

Sports Hero Award: Mark Goddard suggested Vic Gammage be put forward for the award in the West Midlands for his work with the Hereford Youth Canoe Club. He started in 1979 as a volunteer, continued when Herefordshire Council took over and continues to run it now that the Youth Service has gone. Over 600 young canoeists are taken out on the river each year. The instructors and the small committee all gained their qualifications through the club and that training is ongoing. He has successfully obtained two grants to replace equipment. It was **agreed unanimously** that this should be done.

Mark Hubbard declared the meeting closed, thanked everyone for coming and invited them to enjoy supper.

Date & venue of next AGM: To be arranged.