

Friends of Castle Green  
Annual General Meeting  
via Zoom  
Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021, 7:00pm

#### Attendees

Mark Hubbard, Martin Flowers, Paddy Nugent, Katie Bott, Annabel Oxford, Heather Clyne, Bob Heath, Nick James-Williams, Annie Lilwall, Sue Handy, Wilma Gilmour, Jeremy Milln, Heather Davies, Amanda Attfield, Susanna Grunsell, Steve Dennis, Sue Dennis, Stephen O'Dell, Penny O'Dell, Susan Griffin.

#### Apologies

Clarrie Attfield, Ursula Attfield, Vivien Tourmoche, Sarah Edwards, Jane Straker, David Straker.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 were accepted as being a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Amanda Attfield and seconded by Wilma Gilmour. Unanimously agreed.

#### Chairman's Report

Paddy Nugent reflected on the last two years FoCG activity, with an emphasis on issues surrounding Covid 19. The Pavilion had suffered as a result of restrictions placed on people meeting, but the presence of Meals on Wheels in the building during the pandemic ensured that it was still well used during this time. In the short space of time that the Pavilion was able to reopen from Summer 2020, we welcomed back the usual users of the building, and since the easing of lock down in April 2020 these are once again returning. New bookings are coming in and we will welcome back exercise classes from May.

The Pavilion has had a bit of a clear out in the last year, many thanks to those volunteers that helped fill skips and give the building a good clean and reorganise. There is also now new signage at the front of the building and some better lighting to make the building look more welcoming.

The majority of the last year has seen FoCG working hard to secure funding for a new heating system. The river source heating system is now installed and commissioned, whilst a few issues are still being ironed out. Funding of over £150k has been received from the accelerated Stronger Towns Partnership fund via Herefordshire Council, Hereford City Council and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to allow us to install this state of the art renewable energy heating system utilising the river as its source, which allows us to save of 15 tonnes of carbon energy per year. Some of this funding has also been put towards the installation of storage batteries to allow us to conserve and store the electric energy needed to run the heat pumps. In the future we will further look to reduce our carbon output through the use of other renewable energies. Thanks to MJS Energy, Agri Management Solutions and the funders for helping to deliver this project within a very tight time frame.

Paddy gave an update on our application for Stronger Towns Partnership Town Improvement Plan (TIP) funding. Fourteen projects have been shortlisted to be put forward to receive a share of the funding for Hereford City. Friends of Castle Green has submitted an application for £1.56million of the funds for the redevelopment of the Pavilion, to include meeting space, gallery/ exhibition space, cafe and improved Youth Canoe Centre facilities. We expect to hear whether we have been successful in Mid May. We will then have 12 months to

develop a business case with 'shovels in the ground' in approximately May 2022. It is hoped that work would be completed with 6-12 months following this.

Paddy expressed thanks to the Directors and Operations Manager for their hard work in putting together the bid. He also thanked FoCG members and supporters for their backing and encouragement of the project.

Mark Hubbard thanked all of those people who were involved in the Awards for All consultation project in 2018 which gave us the required evidence of support and need to be able to apply for TIP funding.

Amanda Attfield and Jeremy Milln thanked the Board for their work in securing funding to install the river source heating, and congratulated them on a great community project.

#### Youth Canoe Centre

Nick James-Williams talked about the Youth Canoe Centre and its history of working with young people, encouraging skills and safety on the water. He updated attendees on the issues faced due to Covid over the last year and hopes that the YCC would be able to reopen in the near future, depending on Government and governing body guidelines.

Nick also talked about future plans for the Youth Canoe Centre and its commitment to supporting the community and working in partnership with Friends of Castle Green in the improvement of facilities and premises.

#### Treasurers Report

Martin presented the Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet for 2019. Total income for 2019 was £17,753. The overall result for the year was a deficit of £7,265, compared with £3,848 in 2018. This is mostly due to a lack of events which would normally offset staff costs. Martin noted that 2020 accounts look much healthier thanks to a Covid business support grant. Whilst income was down due to covid, the use of the building by Meals on Wheels kept some money coming in. Costs in 2020 remained largely the same, with some small reduction in electricity, gas and maintenance costs. It is likely that FoCG will report a profit in 2020. This will be reported at the next AGM.

#### Election of Directors

All Directors stood down from their positions and then stood again for election en masse. This was proposed by Wilma Gilmour and seconded by Jeremy Milln. Voted for unanimously.

Mark Hubbard  
Martin Flowers- Treasurer  
Annabel Oxford  
Paddy Nugent  
Heather Clyne  
Bob Heath  
Nick James-Williams

AOB

#### Membership Update

Annie Lilwall noted that there had been a significant reduction in member renewal in 2019, due to Covid, but numbers were beginning to rise again after the recent newsletter. There have been approximately 6 new members in the last few weeks.

#### Castle Pool

Jeremy Milln raised the issue of algae on Castle Pool. There has been a proposal for a fountain to be installed to aerate the water and there is some funding available from Herefordshire Council.

Mark Hubbard expressed concern over the issue of getting planning permission for a fountain to be installed into a 13th century castle moat as this was not historically in keeping. Amanda Atfield supported this comment, highlighting that there would be a heritage issue and that there is likely to be a more sophisticated solution available.

Stephen O'Dell commented that there are likely to be more natural solutions and suggested getting advice from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust.

Penny O'Dell asked who would be responsible for financing the management of any such system and the meeting was told that Castle House Hotel had offered to meet running costs. Katie Bott to talk to AMS regarding possible solutions and pass details to Jeremy Milln.

#### Date of Next AGM

November 2021. Exact date TBC