**Notes from Birdcage Walk Meeting at 7.15pm on Tuesday November 15th at Kath & Bob’s flat**

**Present: Paula, James, Trevor, Norman, Caroline, Kath, Bob, Rosalind**

**Apologies; Lesley**

**This meeting replaces Sunday 20th November meeting and had one agenda item – for each committee member to bring at least one idea for the future of the Birdcage Walk**

1. **Paula;** A recent visit has made Paula think ‘It’s your Neighbourhood’ /Britain in Bloom is worth investigating. Action Paula Social prescribing is very important at the moment to support mental health as seen in another recent visit which supports dementia sufferers and their carers. At a meeting of the Downs committee, a patch of garden near the Suspension Bridge which the Zoo Gardens gardeners used to look after was discussed. Do we want to look after it? It was later decided that it would be too much. We had enough on our plate.
2. **Bob:** Interested in looking after stonework; the boundary walls and the old steps going up to grass spaces that was once the church. This may need professionals. Consideration of planting circular areas next to steps was eventually rejected.
3. **Kath:** Huge site to be looked after – fundraising important particularly in light of the coming cuts. Money from the Nisbet Trust is not possible because we would have to be a charitable organisation or community organisation turning over more than £50,000 pa. Crowd funding was considered but rejected. Norman mentioned that the restoration of the Sarah Guppy memorial still needs £3,000 – crowd funding not bringing in enough money. Paula suggested Veolia for grants – **Action Paula**. Paula also suggested Merchant Venturers – Kath to investigate. Paula to send contact details of Caroline Duckworth from MV to Kath - **Action Paula**. Paula also mentioned a CIL bid (community infrastructure levy). This is available for ‘things’ you can buy and therefore actually see. For example shed door, railings, walls. Must be carefully costed with clear reference to how it will benefit.
4. **James:** Clifton in Bloom might raise our profile. Organised through BID – Paula to speak to Peter Crawford. **Action Paula.** James also talked about our relationship with the graveyard and how in its history it is known as a place to be enjoyed, to walk and find inspiration.
5. **Caroline:** Spread our news as far as we can. Caroline suggested using mailchimp and perhaps having a regular newsletter which was agreed. Caroline is going to start a monthly blog ‘Grave of the Month’. Writing an article for the CHIS newsletter was briefly considered but rejected.
6. **Norman;** Looking after God’s Own Acre and Somerset Wildlife trust have excellent information, videos etc. We all agreed that Friends of Birdcage Walk would join Looking after God’s Own Acre as a group and then we can enjoy the benefits of belonging to a group that has the same aims. **Action Norman.**
7. **Kath;** Thought a fundraising event would be a good idea. This was agreed. A music event which people paid to come along to. The weekend of CSG was suggested. **Action Kath.**
8. **Trevor;** Felt we needed to keep a focus on the graveyard and doing the right thing for the wildlife. Trevor felt there were less birds. Our core task needs to be clear and maybe a schedule of tasks should be produced to ensure everyone knows what is expected.
9. **Norman (and Rosalind);** Mara (Community allotment) has appeared again on google maps – having marked St Andrew’s as a community garden. Although not wishing to draw attention to ourselves, we did agree that we should try and have this removed. Norman to send link to Paula **action Norman.** Paula write and have it taken down just in case if causes a problem in the future. **Action Paula. Since this meeting – Trevor has written to google maps and ‘community garden’ is being taken down.**
10. **Rosalind**; Mapping Birdcage Walk is important. Alan Stealey has sent a pack of photos which show us how to map birdcage walk. More information is on its way. **Action Rosalind.** Caring for God’s Acre does have a tutorial on mapping graveyards.
11. Paula asked about the railings – and arches. **Action Rosalind to email Teija for an update.**

**Four action points for the next year were agreed;**

1. **Fundraising event**
2. **Birdcage Walk to be mapped**
3. **Shed to be in action**
4. **Grave of the month to be up and running**