**FRIENDS OF BIRDCAGE WALK Committee Meeting Minutes Sunday 18th December. Next meeting Sunday January 15th 2023**

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

**Apologies; Rosalind, (Paul ?)**

*Actions achieved since our November meeting:*

Norman- we’re now members of God’s Own Acre and affiliated to Somerset Wildlife

Trevor edited google maps successfully and removed the Clifton Community Garden marker

New bench is in hand – too cold for concrete setting!

Trev suggested wooden FOBW information board attached to railings opposite rosebushes, all agreed – Trevor to organise and fund.

Caroline – Grave of the month! January - John Benjamin Tolkien (died 1859) great great uncle of the writer. February – Anne Green

Kath – met Jane the dog walker who is very experienced in organising Arts&Music Festivals (Backwell for one) and keen to help out. Funding for the performers/musicians could come from volunteers selling refreshments. We discussed holding an event during Open Gardens w/e. Lesley pointed out plenty of refreshments available all over Clifton/Hotwells. Paula suggested we stick with St Andrew’s Church Celebration Day as a regular event. So that could be Saturday 12th August or Sunday 13th August tbc

*Actions going forward:*

**BCC BUDGET CUTS CONSULTATION**

Paula reported on an informal conversation with Stephen Peacock about cuts His take was it was “an opportunity to do things differently”. Trevor pointed out this situation was predicted as far back as 2010.

KR asked what the minimum we could expect from BCC. It was thought only grass mown (4 times a year at present) and bins emptied.

Rather than rely on BCC collecting white bags we could establish a couple of more ‘permanent’ sites for leaf mulching piles and bramble piles. No construction/cages necessary.

Bob worried BCC might’ve forgotten about the already agreed railings – Paula to action

Ash trees still not attended to Paula to chase Matthew Bennett Tree Officer

Paula suggested individual responses in addition to the group response (Ros already Actioning).

*Things to consider when writing feedback:*

**“Helping us to help ourselves” – what do we need from BCC?**

Teija (area co-ordinator) is our first point of contact with council and vital. Big up Teja in consultation feedback.

Lesley – discussed with Teja 1) re-instating green double gates to allow access to work area We could help BCC by clearing undergrowth blocking gates to allow loading but would need keys. NOT Likely cos not already agreed in present budget. 2) Making shed secure so we can store tools etc NOT Likely cos not already agreed in present budget.

NB BCC would need to repaint double yellows (TRO not needed) so council can get access. Gates need replacing. Again, NOT likely as not already agreed.

Citizens could demand council refuse to accept government budget cuts. (It has been done before pace Derek Hatton and Liverpool Council)

Petition? Greens? How do we join forces with Nationwide volunteer groups in order to lobby government? Via the Parks Forum or too political for them?

Lesley encouraged people to go to the Parks Forum lunch do and that we all join up.

*Actions rolled over from last meeting:*

Clifton in Bloom might raise our profile. Organised through BID – Paula to speak to Peter Crawford - **Action Paula.**

Veolia for grants – **Action Paula**.

Merchant Venturers – Kath to investigate. Paula to send contact details of Caroline Duckworth from MV to Kath - **Action Paula**.

Should we be pursuing a CIL bid (community infrastructure levy)? Need more details - **Action Paula**.