**FRIENDS OF BIRDCAGE WALK Committee Meeting Minutes Sunday 15th January.**

**Next meeting Sunday 19th February 2023**

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

**Apologies; Norman**

***Actions achieved since our December meeting:***

Both new benches in place – looking good.

Waiting for responses from Teija re hoops and response from tree officer (Paula action)

January Grave of the Month (Tolkein) written by Caroline and published on the website by Norman.

Ella Hogg wrote to thank us all for our contributions to Park Cuts.

**Actions from January meeting**

James is going to Secret Gardens meeting on 24th January and will let them know we are happy to run the tree trail again and wish them all the best. Action Norman (tree trail). Ros to be contact

James will send us details of Art exhibition including artists like Graham Sutherland being held at Victoria Methodist church during Lent.

Update from Kath on grants. We are definitely eligible for a grant from Merchant Venturers. However further discussion on criteria for receiving grant and advice from Paula indicates that we should apply to be a CIC (Community Interest Company). This would ensure we are more likely to be successful. Action Norman? Kath happy to help.

Lesley went through the programme of tasks she has created which clearly displays the gardening jobs we should be doing each month. God’s Own Acre website has been extremely helpful. Discussion about a couple of worthwhile discoveries Lesley has made including removing ivy from all yew trees although we have to be careful we not removing bat’s roosts. James will send Lesley the details of Mark Holroyd (?) who may be able to help with finding bat roosts. Action James and Lesley. GOA advice is also to remove all self-seeding saplings and a reminder about brambles; they fruit on new wood so we are encouraging the brambles to fruit. Lesley has also looked at our carbon footprint and concluded that we don’t create any more flower beds

Lesley to send programme of tasks for each season to Norman for putting onto the website. Action Lesley /Norman

There was a brief discussion about Bristol Heat Network and although it is extremely unlikely that Birdcage Walk could be used, we thought it might give us an extra layer of protection (general protection, not necessarily linked to BHN) if we were listed as a Historic Park and Garden (Arnos Vale is listed). Ros to investigate. Action Ros

***Actions going forward***

Trevor is going to organise the FOBW information board (attached to railings opposite rosebushes) to go up towards the end of February when flowering bulbs are out to entice people to help.

Kath is going to meet Jane the dog walker to discuss further our August celebratory event. Jane 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. So that could be Saturday 12th August or Sunday 13th August tbc Action Kath

CIL bid (community infrastructure levy) continue to have this on back burner – the money is there but not the people to administer.

Next Meeting Sunday 19th February at 10am.