**FRIENDS OF BIRDCAGE WALK Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday 22nd March**

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

***Actions achieved since our February meeting:***

Constitution seen by Rosalind, Norman and Paula. Ros to print out for April meeting for all to sign.

Information sent to Kath from Ros from fundraising workshop.

It was felt that the CIC was not appropriate for us.

**Actions from March meeting**

1. **Policies; Draft Health and Safety/ Waste Management/Gravestone Care/Biodiversity/Carbon Footprint.** Thank you to Lesley and Caroline who will draw these up for our next meeting.
2. **Communicating with our Public.** There is overwhelming support for the ongoing work in the churchyard both from passers-by and written remarks. However, this is overshadowed by some negative comments – most noticeably from Mr Richard Dark and exacerbated by some random acts in the churchyard itself. Huge swathes of ivy have been removed from the wall which may adjoin the Bishop’s House garden. Unfortunately, this happened during bird nesting season. Also there has been a ‘guerrilla’ gardener ‘cleaning’ graves spotted by Bob. Lesley read out some of the negative comments on NextDoor. Ros had replied to an email from RD which was sent via the website months ago. No response however from Mr Dark. Norman had spoken to RD at length during one of the working parties. Paul is not coming to the working parties because he feels too much has been done and that it looks bare. Trevor did feel it was in danger of becoming too municipal. Paula wondered if there should be less frequent gardening working parties. Kath thought there a balance could be achieved. Lesley/Caroline said that the management plans will feed into this and need to be published on the website. Action as above and Ros to draw up short message to be hand delivered to all adjoining properties. Action Lesley and Caroline as above and Ros.
3. **Dog Poo bin –** the amount of dog poo left in the churchyard is unpleasant. Paula suggested we write to our local councillors to let them know that dog poo is becoming an increasing issue. This will feed into what has already been noticed as an issue in Clifton. Lesley suggested another dog poo bin at the other end of the path. Action Paula
4. **Spending;** bird boxes – to be considered later in the year ready for Spring 2024.
5. **Gardening updates and plans for the future** to be circulated as above**.**
6. **Feedback from ‘Wilder Churches’ zoom meeting attended by Lesley;** about 20 participants. There was a wide ranging discussion which was interesting and Lesley reported that we are unique within the group.
7. **Update on Avon Wildlife Trust –** Lesley has arranged meeting with their Environment Officer (30/3) update to follow. Action Lesley/Norman/Caroline/Ros
8. **Update on September event.** Dates are September 12-6 and we need to raise £2-£3,000. Kath has been working with Jane which is very positive. There will be an eco theme with an emphasis on health and well being. There will be a world music vibe. Kath is currently seeking sponsorship. We can all think about possible connections. Trevor suggested asking the scaffolding company who will be erecting scaffolding around his house if they would be interested in putting up the staging. Kath read out an extraordinary list of possibilities for what will be called Birdcage Bash. There was unanimous agreement that she should go ahead and formally start to organise. Action Kath
9. **Roles and responsibilities** it was felt that this is now very obvious.
10. **Any other business –** railings need to be painted and gates need urgent attention
11. **Date of next meeting –** Wednesday 26th April 5pm at Kath and Bob’s