**FRIENDS OF BIRDCAGE WALK Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday 24th May 2023**

**Present: Caroline, Kath, Bob, Trevor, James, Ros**

**Apologies: Paula, Lesley, Norman**

**Actions achieved since our April meeting:**

Constitution is on the website – thank you Norman.

Management plans agreed by Bristol Parks (Teija Ahjokoski)

Avon Wildlife information circulated – agreed by Bristol Parks (Teija Ahjokoski) Lesley in the process of confirming this with Avon Wildlife. Thank you Lesley for organising this.

Information Poster put up on railings – thank you Trevor

Lead paint has been confirmed in all paint samples in the railings

Clifton Secret Gardens information updated by Caroline and gone to Bob. Thank you both.

**Actions from April meeting**

1. **Constitution** needs to be signed by Paula and Lesley.
	1. **Rosalind – remaining signatures collected**
2. **Gardening update –** Management plans and becoming a Case Study for Avon Wildlife have been approved by Teija. Continuing to run working parties weekly organised by Lesley via WhatsApp group. Controlling brambles, bindweed and keeping willow bay at bay.There was a discussion about someone living under a tarpaulin in the graveyard – decision made to leave him. Kath had unpleasant incident with large Great Dane off the lead whose owner was rude.Rosalind had spoken to owner of huskies who was very approachable. Medical condition which affects his mood so be careful was the advice.
3. **Birdcage Bash Update -** Kath reported that the situation is very frustrating at the moment. Zoom calls have been made. BCC did not seem to be aware of the relationship between Birdcage and the Diocese. BCC contact did not understand what a Diocese is. The risk assessment has already been sent in. The main concern now seems to be managing numbers – there is a method that can be used to calculate numbers at an event. The only way to really manage numbers would be to close Birdcage Walk and ticket the event. BCC are saying that it is an interesting situation and will set a precedent. Kath reported that although slow and frustrating it is edging forward but mostly Kath is concerned because she cannot book bands or chase sponsorship. The permissions have to be in place first. The Diocese feel that they should charge us (as do BCC) and yet any money earned will go straight back into Birdcage Walk (approx. £750 for both costs). This is not a money making exercise. Diocese have passed the request onto the legal team. Caroline confirmed that there are still bodies still in crypt under the church – in fact the whole area is a huge graveyard. Trevor asked for clarification about the purpose of the event. Kath said that it is community event for all stakeholders and there is unlikely to be a profit.Sponsorship will be raised to pay for bands etc. Discussion ensued about the event / coronation event in Mall Gardens and permissions. Kath is working towards a £4/5,000 budget. BID has plenty of money it was reported by both James and Kath. Trevor wondered about the possibility of doing this next year? He suggested that Kath should continue with permissions but not to be afraid of postponing it. Kath thought itwas a good point. Bob said May was a good time of year for this event. Kath made the decision to keep going but accepts that there is a point when it is no longer viable this year. This point, she felt, is fast approaching.
	1. **Action; Kath to continue chasing**
4. **Railings –** Bob found a gate at the far end bent and on one of the graves. Discussion about the state of the railings. Grade II listing will hold up any works. We agreed to concentrate on repairing what is broken. We have used lime twigs to repaid the gates and will continue in that non-invasive style**.**
	1. **Action; Bob will wire them up.**
5. **Any other business –** Caroline mentioned a couple of events – on Sunday last (20th May) photos were being taken for a Bristol Walks book. On Monday (21st) Caroline was with a group who were researching Thomas Beddoes and the Edgworth family (although they were mainly interested in Stranger’s Graveyard)**.** Kath has just done an audition tape which she filmed in Birdcage Walk. Even if she does not get the job – perhaps they will want to know where the site is and use it.
6. **Date of next meeting –** Wednesday 28th June 5pm at Kath and Bob’s