Friends of Birdcage Walk Meeting - 10am 17th October

Present: Norman Charnley, Trevor Blythe, Caroline Melvin, James Gibbs, Rosalind Olsen

Apologies: Paula O’Rourke

1. Update on Love Your Park Grant; we were unsuccessful because we were not as close to the brief as other entries were. They were oversubscribed. However, we think we are more ‘heritage with park’ rather than ‘park’. Therefore, we will move in that direction. We can always borrow equipment from parks department which RO will action for November. RO will investigate free websites and Heritage Lottery funding. CM to continue to write / research copy for website. NC and CM to build a selection of photos for website. DTB will ask Trevor Haddrell about using part of his engraving on our website as a logo/ident.
2. Update on Constitution and purchase of domain name to be discussed in November.
3. Thank to NC for taking on the role of Treasurer and DTB for being second signatory on the account.
4. CHIS – NC has the tree survey which was written in 2001 so is now out of date. NC has walked the site and noted the works which were scheduled to be done by CHIS but have not been done. There are some trees on site which need urgent attention. This led to a discussion about the boards and money CHIS have for Birdcage Walk. We would like to make a direct request to CHIS for the boards and any monies which have been allocated to Birdcage Walk. As an alternative we can ask how we can help CHIS to put up the boards / complete the works for which they are holding money. We agreed at the meeting that either of these were approaches we were happy to carry out.
5. We discussed responsibility for Birdcage Walk / what can we really do? We want to be really clear about our position. Who does what between CHIS/Council Parks Department and Diocese? To sum up – CHIS have funds for Birdcage Walk/should have completed work (boards/ treeworks) but are not active in their support. The Council will be renovating the arches of Birdcage and other iron works but do not have a vision for the natural/heritage of Birdcage and the Diocese are absent.
6. Next meeting Sunday 21st November at 10am