**FRIENDS OF BIRDCAGE WALK Committee Meeting Minutes**

**MONDAY 20th May 2024**

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

1. **Apologies: Norman, Lesley**
2. **MINUTES of previous meeting 25th March 2024 –** were agreed**.**
3. **Actions from the previous meeting:** 
   1. Paula has spoken to Ben Skuse from the Downs team and there are willow twigs available currently sitting by the Observatory. Paula has passed on this information to Norman. **Action Norman**
   2. Signage – Please respect this churchyard … It was agreed that Teija’s approval meant that this could go ahead. Lesley had said that she know someone who could do this for us. **Action Lesley**
   3. Graffiti update. Paula said the training was a very positive experience. Highly recommended. It is hoped that the chemicals can be stored in Royal York Crescent ready to go out on the first job.
   4. James did write to CHIS and the listing of green spaces should be changed to include Birdcage Walk. Norman has been put in touch with David who runs the No8 Victoria Square.
   5. Homeless man living amongst the graves. Paula to contact Jeremy Bristow. **Action Paula**
   6. Kath will delete our information from University page on volunteering. **Action Kath**
4. **Gardening Update from Rosalind and Caroline** 
   1. A meeting with Teija took place on Wednesday 8th May. Autumn gardening plans had been sent to Teija in advance and she approved them. They will now be finalised and are now on the website. We need to set a date from October 2024 onwards with BCC for a team to cut down all self sown/shrubs. **Action Rosalind**
   2. Two dead trees need to be inspected by the Bristol Tree Work Team to decide on removal or retention. **Action Lesley**
   3. Teija says BCC could supply stakes and wires for bramble and rose support. Rather than allow them to flop over the shrubs and graves. **Action Rosalind**
   4. We are going to try and organise a ‘building a dead hedge’ training session. **Action Lesley / Norman /Rosalind**
5. **AOB** 
   1. Paula wondered about organising a crowdfunder to raise some money for the refurbishment railings. Paula will arrange a meeting with Pete Insol and Norman to get a second opinion about the railings. A lot of discussion took place about the railings and consideration of other railings which have recently been painted. Trevor offered to do some research into different coatings for railings and Kath will send Trevor the contact information she has for refurbishment of the gates into their own gardens. **Action Paula** **/ Trevor / Kath**
   2. James handed out the Open Gardens leaflets for 8th and 9th June.
   3. Bob has put a large piece of stone in one of the very boggy areas. Paula is going to locate a piece of pennant stone for another area. **Action Paula**
6. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 15th July 2024 at 5pm at Trevor’s. (Thank you Trevor)