FRENCHAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Thursday 20 November 2014 at

Unitarian Chapel, Frenchay at 7.45 pm

1. **Evacuation Procedure**

 Leave via the fire door and assemble outside

2. Apologies

 Anthony Downes, Paul Salmon, Carol Thorne

 51 members as per the attached Attendance Sheet

Re-election of Committee – proposed by Eurof Lewis, seconded by David Fletcher that the committee should be re-elected en bloc – agreed by all those present.

3. **Invited speakers**

a) Neil Green, Avon Invasive Weeds Officer, who is based at Bristol Zoo, gave an update on works carried out in the Frenchay area. The Avon Invasive Weeds Forum (AIWF) has been granted £13,960 supported through SITA Trust’s Enriching Nature Programme, following an application submitted by the Bristol Zoological Society, to control invasive weeds within the River Avon. SITA Trust provides funding to biodiversity conservation projects through the Landfill Communities Fund.

*Himalayan Balsam* – community groups have been used to clear four areas, including Frenchay, from Hambrook to Eastville. He gave thanks to the Frenchay volunteers for their invaluable help in clearing the area along the River Frome from Hambrook to Oldbury Court. Research on the biological control of Himalayan balsam is taking place.

*Giant hogweed* – three areas are now managed, including an area in Stapleton.

*Japanese knotweed* – three sites have been identified, Winterbourne, Frenchay and Oldbury Court – all now managed.

*Floating pennywort*  - in Downend, now under control.

*Waterfern* – in Winterbourne, now under control.

b) Rebecca Lemin spoke on behalf of parents with children at Frenchay Pre-School and Frenchay Primary School in relation to road safety problems in walking children to school. Their concerns have been raised with South Glos. Council and a scheme for the junction at the village hall has been approved by the Traffic Planners to create a safer crossing, this to be financed by the Southern Brookes Area Forum. It is now third on the list for final approval. Alan Jocelyn was of the opinion that this scheme would make matters worse and suggested that the area round the Village Hall revert back to a ‘T’ Junction with a halt sign. Other aspects of road safety in the area were voiced including the dangerous high speed of motorists along Beckspool Road which has been made worse since the closure of Frenchay Hospital. It was suggested that a working group be formed to consider road safety options for the future for these to be passed on to the Council.

c) Philip Whitby-Coles reported on the 2014 Frenchay Flower Show. Unfortunately the weather had been extremely wet and it was a break-even result. With this in mind it will not be possible to give any financial help to the local groups as in the past. There will be a breakdown of finances published in the January Community Newsletter. The date for the 2015 Show will be the 11th of July. He thanked all those who gave their help but more assistance is needed especially clearing up at the end of the day.

4. **Minutes of the Half Yearly Meeting – 19 June 2014**

These had been circulated. Proposed by David Fletcher, seconded by Eurof Lewis that they be signed as a true and accurate record.

5. **Chairman’s Report – Paul Kembery**

The dog bin next to the bus shelter has been relocated to another site. It was noted that some of the litter bins in the area are now ‘Dual bins’ – to accommodate dog waste as well as rubbish. The Parish Council have installed a new double bin by the White Lion to cater for the many visitors especially during the summer months.

Further works have been carried out in the Tuckett Pond which is looking good. Many residents have commented on how well the Commons appear since changing contractors – added bonus is the charge is less than previously.

The sign on Frenchay Bridge has been restored at no cost to the tax payer.

Map on the wall outside the Quakers Meeting house – the frame is being restored and the map itself is likely to be replaced with a new copy.

6. **The Future of Frenchay – David Fletcher**

He drew attention to the Supplementary Planning Document for the Conversation Area adopted by South Gloucestershire Planning in March 2007 which is used when assessing planning applications and other proposals. A further supporting document called a Village Design Statement could also be prepared to make sure any new development respects the distinctive visual character of the wider area. The Ward Members have already received unanimous support from the Parish Council for this project. Two other Village Design Statements within Winterbourne Parish Council have been adopted by South Glos. Planning – Watleys End and Winterbourne Down. It was proposed that Frenchay Preservation Society submit a Village Design Statement to the Parish Council for their approval and recommendation for adoption by South Gloucestershire Planning. This will greatly assist in the forthcoming planning process of any new Frenchay development. This proposal was well received by those present.

7. **Bank Balance**

In the absence of Carol Thorne, Treasurer the Chairman confirmed that balance to be £633.30 – carry forward.

8. **Date of next meeting**

 Half Year Meeting – Thursday 15 June 2015

9. **Any Other Business**

A request was made for the reinstatement of the No 4 First Bus service. Councillor Trevor Jones will forward this to the appropriate department.

Hugh Whately reported that he had attended a meeting of the Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Partnership Traffic and Transport Sub Group at which First Bus had indicated that the No 4 service will operate at a future date, hopefully before the new development of the Frenchay site is finished.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and the meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

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Chairman

Date : …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………