FRENCHAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of ½ yearly meeting Thursday 20th June 2019 held at the Unitarian Chapel, Frenchay at 7.30 pm

1. Evacuation procedure

 Apologies – Kate Davison, Philip Whitby-Coles, Neil Lemin, Eurof Lewis, Judith Langfield

1. Minutes of AGM meeting November 2018 – on FPS website – agreed as correct and Chairman signed.

\*\* Attendance sheet going round \*\*

1. Chairman thanked residents who voted for the 4 Frenchay Councillors which is Charlie Watkins, Adrian Collins, Hugh Whatley and myself. Many residents have suggested FRA and FPS should work together and we are delighted that this has happened for Frenchay’s best interests for the future. We are all indebted to Eurof Lewis, Carol Thorne and David Fletcher for between them 70 years of service to the Frenchay community as Parish Councillors.

. a Paul Kembery - Lime Trees Westbourne Terrace – A row of trees have been planted behind the existing trees that are close to the road edge by Westbourne Terrace. This was done by WPC some years ago and it was intended that when they reach maturity the trees that are close to the road could be removed as some residents nearby say they cause issues with sap on the cars for example. We would therefore like to consult with residents affected and local residents on the thoughts of putting in planning permission to take out the line of trees. I have received correspondence from a resident of Westbourne Terrace (WT) who is unable to attend who suggests that the new line of trees should mature more before the existing ones come down. I have also had correspondence from residents there who wish them to be taken out. A resident from WT said he and his wife are keen that the Lime trees close to the road are removed as they cause aphids to drop a sap type muck over cars and houses. Also tree root damage. Another resident of WT said they had been concerned with past storms that it could cause property damage. Also very oppressive for specific residents affected. It was suggested to crown lift them in the meantime. The sycamore at the end was fine, it is the 2 Lime trees that are requested to be taken out and Chairman will take it forward to WPC and ultimately the SGC tree officer to look at. No other residents raised an objection to them being felled.

B – Adrian Collins on Facilities on the former hospital site. Adrian made a presentation on the new park area, tennis courts, boules, croquet, nature reserve and allotments. The play area is being well used, a report of dog and fox fouling so WPC will look at having appropriate no dog signs. A resident suggested an age limit for the younger play area. A member of the tennis club said how pleased they were with new courts, the old ones have been removed. Cricket slip may not be used much and really in the wrong place. Benches are good quality and plenty of dog bins but need emptying more often. Redrow have been informed of this and taken action, SGC empty them on Redrow’s behalf. Boules and croquet area needs work and possibly a croquet team could be set up. Adult play equipment nearer new homes. Nature reserve and pond will need work in the future. New allotment wall high quality work and gates will be installed in near future. Adrian has done tours and offered to do another for residents. Toilets were discussed and Museum not in place to offer the 1 toilet for general use.

C – Charlie Watkins on Beckspool Pond - Charlie made a presentation of the works that been completed at Beckspool. He thanked the hard work of the pond renovation team. Avon Wildlife Trust donated over 500 plants. ‘Duckingham Place’ still needs work and ducks are back and the pond level is filling up. Residents said of the need for the correct duck food and not bread. Possible signs needed to say this.

Chairman’s Report

The traffic calming scheme on Beckspool Road that has caused frustration for many residents has been reviewed. We are still waiting for the results of the independent traffic survey which was done some months ago as this is now being incorporated with the 20 mph scheme proposal that residents were asked to respond to online. I have chased the traffic officers on a number of occasions and we will look closely at the report once it’s published. The number of vehicles wheels and tyres that have been damaged during the first few weeks of it being implemented seem to have diminished since people are more use to it. I was witness to 2 vehicles being damaged, one when we had a meeting with SGC officers about the scheme so it was blatantly obvious to them that there were issues that needed addressing. Within ½ hour temporary blue signs with white arrows were put out which are still there now. We said at the very beginning that the wooden bollards had inadequate reflectors on and the temporary blue and white signs need a long term solution to. Possible use of traffic visor and community speedwatch to enforce 20 mph if scheme approved.

South Glos. Council Highways that the area coming from Frenchay to the ring road is a high pollution zone and central government have demanded that something is done to reduce this. We have issues historically with the design of the junction that we have reported to SGC highways and had meetings with engineers as the lanes are too narrow and the phasing of the traffic lights heading towards Winterbourne are too short. There will be an experimental traffic order which will be a trial for up to 18 months and is planned to start from Sunday 11th August. It will be a similar scheme to when the Bromley Heath Viaduct works were being done which will mean vehicles can only turn left towards Filton and the M 32 and not right towards Downend or straight on towards Winterbourne. Slides were shown to identify area. Our 3 new SGC Councillors came up and said why the scheme was needed and they will pass on views and concerns residents will have. Residents said pollution not taken into account in Frenchay with expected increase in volume. Traffic calming at Cleevewood Bridge discussed and the historic review was talked about. Many residents showed concerns about likely traffic jams and the similar scheme when the viaduct works were being done.

As most of you will be aware the electoral boundary changes mean that for our South Glos. Councillors we are now the Downend and Frenchay ward and the recently elected members are Jon Hunt, Ben Burton and James Griffiths. Winterbourne Parish Council boundaries have stayed the same which is Frenchay, Hambrook, Winterbourne Down and Winterbourne.

Sue Horrocks – Frenchay Flower Show – Sue promoted this year’s show and the schedule and possible entries. Volunteers were asked for and also the vintage car show at the museum was promoted which is in conjunction.

Frenchay Preservation Society is 50 years old this year and to mark the occasion we will be doing a cheese and wine quiz evening on Saturday 28th September at the Village Hall. This is the same format as the one 10 years ago to mark the 40th, it was a sold out event and good fun as you have to identify the cheese you are eating and the wine you are drinking!

5. Carol – Treasurers report £ 647.58 at last AGM, £ 150.24spent on website, printing and room hire. £ 437.34 left. Carol told us of the success of the book exchange phone box and £ 252 given to charity from excess books donated.

6. Hugh Whatley– Winterbourne Parish Council planning report overview of the past 6 months. Tree works in the conservation area and extensions were the main type of planning items that come in. The Redrow plans for Lime Tree Avenue boundary appear to be approved though design and garage placements disappointing. Fromeshaw Lodge Dentist surgery expansion was objected to and the road entrance to Clic Cottage (South Lodge) was discussed as the route to the proposed new school but not wanted as a main route for other residents and visitors of the new estate.

7. AOB – A resident of Grange Park thanked the Chairman and Eurof Lewis for the presentation they made at the Kingswood SGC Civic Centre in objecting to the Dentist Surgery expansion. The application was approved by SGC Councillors.

Alan Jocelyn (AJ) said that the return of a Doctor’s surgery would be a much appreciated asset in Frenchay as many residents have to travel long distances to one. AJ said that all the principal components required were now available for the first time in approx. 20 years. With the new homes and increased population the numbers justify a GP surgery and this could be located/part of the ‘step down hospital’ that was promised in Frenchay but has yet to be approved. In addition, there is £307K ring fenced in the s106 money for GP provision. Two practices had been approached in the past and showed interested in the prospect. AJ has already spoken to some local Doctors who have given support for the GP surgery. South Glos. Clinical Commissioning Group have a new Chief Executive, Dame Julia Ross and AJ hoped that she might welcome such a local initiative, he offered to provide a plan and contacts to lobby for a GP surgery and hoped the new Councillors would take this forward. Residents gave a resounding backing for this to be looked into.

8. Date of next meeting is Thursday 21st November 2019 in this same venue at 7.30 pm