

Jesus Green Association

Committee meeting of 8 May 2012 at 7 Park Parade: minutes

Present: Peter Constable, Anthony Bowen, George Hill, John Lawton

Apologies: Jo Morrison, Richard Price, Martin Thompson

1. PC welcomed George Hill to his first meeting.
2. Minutes of 13 March were accepted.
3. Caesarian Sunday, 6 May: about a thousand students male and female drank themselves silly; many urinated, vomited and swore, driving away a brass band and outraging many citizens and their families hoping for a refreshing afternoon out of doors. Trees were swung on, branches broken, and parent birds and their chicks terrified and divided. Some students when challenged claimed to be from Anglia Ruskin! Council officials were not around; the police presence was pathetic, and even tried to evade its duty. One WPC eventually got a few students to help clear up. National newspapers published in plentiful detail, with pictures. No authority seems to have been aware of what was coming, despite a similar outrage last year and the year before, and much activity after last year. PC was in touch with Cllr Reiner and the civic authorities; AB would see the Master of Jesus College; Suicide Sunday was expected on 17 June. It was time for the University itself to act.
4. HLF bid. Sarah Tovell had been asked about an outside brief for the architectural work proposed. PC had been in conversation with Kate Fry of HLF. Many more bids had been lodged this time, from this area. The bid would be heard at the end of June.
5. Insurance. The Council was thought to have funds; RP was asked to pursue them.
6. Jesus Ditch was on ST's list, for dredging. AB reported that Paul Stearn, head gardener of Jesus College, had consulted the Council's pest control people about rats; poison had been laid, and no rats had been seen since; dead squirrels had been seen, however, and moorhens seemed fewer, but it was reckoned these populations would recover, and PS was thanked.
7. Tennis Courts: the nine week contract was delayed by recent rains.
8. Play area: refurbishment was not now expected before autumn.
9. Signs: ST reported a leaflet for distribution to people using the Green by Council staff; PC had not seen a copy. The barbecue mushrooms would remain until satisfactory alternatives were in place. Fires had recently been fewer; it was hoped that notices, enforcers and example would maintain the situation as midsummer approached.
10. Pool hedge; waterlogged ground and then the nesting season had prevented more trimming, but a new hedge had been planted.
11. Beer Festival: imminent. PC had asked to attend the planning meeting; GH would contact his contacts. The part of the Green used was very wet. Would the Hammerhead be ready?
12. PC would propose for the next Jesus Green Working Party 28 or 29 May at 10.0 or 2.0 and let us know.
13. At West/Central area committee meeting on 26 April a budget of £800k was reported for new litter bins. AB would take to its chairman suggestions for shortening those meetings.
14. Next meeting: Tuesday 3 July at 6.0 p.m. at 23 New Square.

Peter Constable (chairman)