

Jesus Green Association

Minutes of the meeting of 9 January 2012 at 23 New Square.

Present: Anthony Bowen, Peter Constable (chair), John Lawton, Martin Thompson.

Apologies: Jo Morrison, Richard Price, Jeremy Purseglove.

1. Minutes of 23 November 2011 were accepted. There were no matters arising not on the agenda.
2. JG working group had met on 6 January, AB, PC and MT being present. PC reported:
 - Events planned for the Green include a half marathon (11 March), Scott Polar sledge pull (25 March), Cancer UK run, with brass band (6 May), Macmillan Race for Life (30 June/1 July), the Beer Festival (date unknown), Bridge charity walk (9 September).
 - Tennis Courts: tenders were due in on 27 January, work to take 6 weeks.
 - Bowls pavilion: no official obstacle to its demolition was outstanding.
 - Play area: Cllr Reiner, chair of the meeting, and officers agreed to treat its refurbishment as urgent; nevertheless, yet another summer looked likely to go by with nothing done.
 - Jesus Ditch: water jets had removed obstructions in a pipe near La Mimosa (c/ee thanked officers for this action); water was now returning to the ditch, but had been halted by the lowering of the water in the Cam. Many fish had been installed. A volunteers' clean-up day would be organised. (Subsequently, PC reported rats; was there a public health risk if volunteers waded in? The accumulated sludge needed removal by machine.)
 - Signage and barbecue provision: action was needed before the summer; the mushrooms would not be removed until their replacement was ready. (AB agreed to press on this.)
 - Hammerhead: nothing whatever had been done to prepare new drawings.
 - Trees: Sarah Tovell and the tree officer would meet PC on site. (Which had happened. The original memorial tree was in better shape, though shorter than its replacement, which would be removed. Another tree planted very close would also be removed. One of three new beeches near Lower Park Street had been planted on top of the old air-raid shelter!)
 - Insurance: present insurance covered events at which officers were not in attendance. ST recommended BCTV insurance, at about £260 p.a.; a grant should be sought from West/Central area committee. (PC proposed accordingly; such a sum should not come from member funding, but from our parent body the Council. MT agreed to seek ST's help with the application. Existing insurance should lapse.)
 - HLF bid: news of its failure had come, but no letter explaining in detail. It was agreed to submit the bid again, refined as appropriate, by the next closing date, 28 February. Section 106 funding and a capital grant would be sought, and Trinity College would be approached for the Rouse Ball pavilion. Cllr Cantrill later confirmed his support for this.

The letter arrived on 9 January. HLF declared that the bid met their criteria and was a 'worthwhile project', but was beyond their funds. If it were re-submitted, either more benefits should be proposed for the same money, or less money sought for the same benefits; interpretation was undercosted, and projects to involve the community were unexciting; the comment on the water-meadow was obscure. In PC's absence until early March, MT and AB in particular would assist the new bid; ST would be asked to arrange an early meeting with the HLF people.
3. JL had added the JGA Secretary's email to the website and had updated the membership list; there were 44 names on the members' list and 159 on the announcement list.
4. RP had reported a balance of £221.43.
5. The local Labour party had asked to know JGA's priorities (among other voluntary organisations). Chief seemed to be much prompter action on matters agreed for action. JL would draw up a response for committee approval and submit it to all parties.
6. MT took note of PC's media contacts.
7. Next meeting would be on Tuesday 13 March at 6.0 p.m. at 7 Park Parade.

Peter Constable (chairman)