

DISCLAIMER

The attached minutes are DRAFT minutes. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.

Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861

Minutes of the Downs Committee AGM held on 23rd November 2015 at 2.00 pm at Brunel House

Present:

City Councillors

P The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor
Councillor Clare Champion-Smith (Chair)

P Councillor Peter Abraham
P Councillor Barry Clark
P Councillor Martin Fodor
P Councillor Glenise Morgan
A Councillor Mahmudur Khan
P Councillor Bill Payne

Merchant Venturers

P Tim Ross (Master)

P Jonathon Baker
P Anthony Brown
P Andrew Densham
P Francis Greenacre
P Cullum McAlpine
P Dayrell McArthur

Also in attendance:

Andrew Gordon - Estates Management
John Williams – Parks and Caretaking
Ben Skuse – Downs Maintenance Supervisor
Victoria Holden - Events Team
Richard Ennion – Environmental Improvement
Manager
Mike Allen – Finance

Becky Belfin – Nature Conservation
Richard Goldthorpe – City Design
Norman Cornthwaite - Democratic Services
Jack Penrose – FOD+AG

1. Apologies for Absence and Introductions (Agenda Item No. 1)

The two new Merchant Venturer Members - Jonathon Baker and Cullum McAlpine - were welcomed.

2. Membership of the Downs Committee (Agenda Item No. 2)

Resolved - that the Membership be noted.

3. Confirmation of Chair (Agenda Item No. 3)

It was noted that in the absence of the Lord Mayor, the Master of the Merchant Venturers assumes the Chair.

Resolved – that the appointment of Tim Ross as Master for 2015/16 be noted.

4. Retiring Members of the Committee (Agenda Item No. 4)

It was noted that Chris Curling and Sir James Tidmarsh are retiring Members of the Committee.

Resolved – that the retirement of Merchant Venturer Members of the Committee be noted and a letter thanking them for past services to the Downs Committee be sent.

5. Dates and Times of Meetings (Agenda Item No. 5)

It was noted the proposed dates were as follows:

Monday 25th January 2016 at 2.00pm

Monday 11th April 2016 at 2.00 pm

Monday 4th July 2016 (Visiting Meeting held at Merchant Venturers Hall) at 11.00 am

Monday 26th September 2016 at 2.00 pm

Monday 21st November 2016 (Annual Meeting) at 2.00 pm

Resolved - that the Downs Committee meet on the above dates.

6. Delegations (Agenda Item No. 6)

Resolved - that the delegations to the City Director, Strategic Director Business Change and the Strategic Director Neighbourhoods be approved for 2014/2015; and that the arrangements regarding the Events Sub Group be noted.

7. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th September 2015 (Agenda Item No. 7)

Resolved - that the Minutes be agreed as a correct record of the Meeting and signed by the Lord Mayor.

8. Declarations of interest (Agenda Item No. 8)

Councillor Morgan stated that she is a Member of FODAG.

9. Public Forum (Agenda Item No. 9)

Statements were received from:

Judith Tyler	Parking on the Downs.
Robert Westlake, CHIS	First World War Shelter, Westbury Road
Maggie Shapland	Memorial Drinking Fountain
Sam Saunders	Place and Movement Strategy
Vicki Cracknell	Place and Movement Strategy
Philip Bird	Place and Movement Strategy
Tony Wright	Place and Movement Strategy

Terry Miller	Place and Movement Strategy
Cycling Sunday	Place and Movement Strategy
Jill Ford	Place and Movement Strategy

A copy of the statements is contained in the Minute Book which is held by Democratic Services.

10. FOD+AG Report (Agenda Item No. 10)

Jack Penrose introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

The Committee thanked FOD+AG for their work. The Lord Mayor stated that a thank you letter would be sent them.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

11. Place and Movement Strategy (Agenda Item No. 11)

Andrew Gordon introduced the item and Richard Goldthorpe summarised the Framework that has been developed.

The Committee welcomed the Framework and thanked the Officers for their work.

During the debate on the Framework the following points were made:

- The growth in car ownership was noted
- The importance of finding ways for people to explore the Downs
- The difficulty in choosing one configuration
- The need for more time to consider the Framework
- Financing schemes

- Finding a balance for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- Involving the public in consultation
- The need for more information; Members to advise Officers what more information they require
- The need for another Meeting of the Committee – a Workshop - to further consider the proposals; this was agreed

Resolved – that a Workshop of the Downs Committee be convened on a suitable date to give further consideration to the Place and Movement Framework.

12. Downs Management Report (Agenda Item No. 12)

Andrew Gordon introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

It was suggested that the N P be approached for a contribution towards the cost of the turf and rubber matting and this was agreed.

It was noted that some items of expenditure charged to the Downs Committee may be charged elsewhere.

Resolved – (1) that the report be noted and that the recommendations in the report be agreed including the following:

- (a) that the installation of turf and rubber matting on the bare ground around the playground bench up to tarmac path to improve access be approved at a cost of £6,971; and**
- (b) that permission be granted to allow Durdham Downs to be used as a secondary site for the Children’s Air Ambulance.**

13. Finance Report (Agenda Item No. 13)

Mike Allen introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

It was noted that most of the reserves have come employee costs

savings. It was also noted that it may be possible to re-instate some previous expenditure in the reserves.

Resolved – that it be noted that there are no significant variations from budget to the end of September.

14. Delegated and Upcoming Events Proposed on The Downs
(Agenda Item No. 14)

Victoria Holden introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Resolved – (1) that the events and filming activity that has taken place on The Downs under delegated powers be noted; and

(2) that the proposed future events to take place on The Downs between Committee Meetings be noted.

(The Meeting ended at 3.55 pm.)

Lord Mayor