

# THE DOWNS COMMITTEE

Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861

**Downs Committee Meeting**

**10th April 2017 at 2.00 pm**

**City Hall**

**Present:**

BCC -

Lord Mayor Councillor Jeff Lovell (Chair)

Councillor Peter Abraham

Councillor Donald Alexander

Councillor Nicola Beech

Councillor Barry Clark

Councillor Martin Fodor

Merchant Venturers -

Cullum McAlpine – Master

Jonathon Baker

Anthony Brown

Francis Greenacre

Charles Griffiths

James McArthur

Tim Ross

Also in attendance -

Sarah Tyler – Parks

Melissa Inman- Events

Ben Skuse – Downs Maintenance

Robin Poole – Finance

Norman Cornthwaite – Democratic Services

Mandy Leivers – Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer

Robert Westlake – Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG)

Jack Penrose - Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG)

**24. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Clare Champion-Smith.

## **25. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**Resolved – that the Minutes be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

## **26. Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

## **27. Public Forum**

Nothing was received.

## **28. Downs Management and Events Report**

### **Events, etc.**

Melissa Inman introduced this part of the report and summarised it for everyone. She explained that this was the third and final year of the Circus contract and that a re-tendering process would be required. There was a debate about the best way to proceed concerning the re-tendering process and how to achieve the highest amount of income, and whether or not a 3 year contract or a shorter contract period would achieve this. There was also discussion about the total number of events that can reasonably be accommodated on the Downs. It was agreed that the Events Sub Group should meet to consider the Circus contract and make recommendations to the Committee.

### **Management Update**

Sarah Tyler introduced this part of the report and summarised it for everyone. She advised that a rock fall had taken place at Black rocks on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and that a climber had been injured. A review of safety was taking place.

**Resolved – (1) that the report be noted; as well as**

**(2) that that an events sub group meeting is held to agree the tender or extension for a Circus on the Downs for future years as the current contract ends at the end of 2017;**

**(3) that the Confirmed future events be noted;**

**(4) that the Proposed future events be agreed;**

**(5) that the Update on the Music Event be noted; and**

**(6) that the Management Update be noted.**

## **29. Finance Report**

Robin Poole provided a verbal update on the Finance Sub Group Meeting the previous week. At the Meeting the present budget and future budgets had been discussed as well as income generation and costs. Another was being organised during May.

**Resolved - that the report be noted.**

**30. Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG)**

Jack Penrose introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

**Resolved – that the report be noted.**

**31. Any Other Business**

The Lord Mayor reminded everyone that this was his last Downs Committee Meeting and thanked everyone for their support.

**32. Next Meeting**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 at Merchants Hall.

Meeting ended at 3.15 pm.

(Chair)