



Friends of Brunswick Square and Terrace

General Meeting Saturday 16 November 2019

11.00 a.m. at The Regency Town House, 13 Brunswick Square (following the AGM)

MINUTES

1. **In attendance:** Robert Bent, Fiona Bower, Sue Cartwright, Ian Chaplin, Michael Creedy, Beryl Cross, Andrew Dawes, Simon Dice, Mark Gregson, Valerie Haigh, Clare Hannah, Pamela Hoad, Joy Hole, Nicola Hurley, Lesley Johnston, Catherine Lane, Sarah-Jane Lennard, Phelim MacCafferty, Lynne Moore, James & Amanda Nott, Libby Preis, Allan Schofield, Craig & Sophie Sears-Black, Nancy Jane Stembridge, Josie Taylor, Mark Tozer, Nick Tyson.

Apologies for Absence: Sue Bazire, Lara Brooks, Harold Gould, Rob Hole, Barbara Hollington, Jackie Lefton, Nigel Lefton, Daryl Perilli.
2. **The Minutes of the 13 April General Meeting:** Agreed.
3. **Matters Arising not on the agenda.**
 - a) The bench which was damaged at the Brunswick Festival 2018 had at last been replaced.
 - b) The Council had eventually taken action against the Estate Agent adverts at 37 Brunswick Square and the adverts had been removed.
4. **The Sussex Peasant mobile farm shop** had been refused a licence as no licences were agreed for the area in question. Ed Johnson was likely to appeal.
5. **Licencing for Events on Hove Lawns:** Additional events were planned for 2020. Councillors Hannah Clare and Phelim MacCafferty have appealed and will continue to do so with our help.
6. **Reports:**
 - a) **Railings:** The Committee have been keeping an eye on the railings and gates, which are not in too bad a state. Fiona Bower will try to obtain funding from the Council for the seaward section of railings.
 - b) **Gardens:** Using organic soil, Lynne Moore and a couple of helpers succeeded in achieving a "Thriving" certificate from It's Your Neighbourhood for the Friend's Garden in 2019 and an "Excellence" award from Brighton and Hove City in Bloom. Lynne was thinking ahead for extending bloom into autumn 2020 with more late flowering perennials.
 - c) **Rough Sleepers and Anti-social Behaviour:** Lara Brooks and others continued to report tents to the various authorities and it is hoped others would do the same.

It was reported that walkways had been made in the two bottom corners of the bushes where people, including taxi drivers, regularly urinated. Ian suggested asking taxi firms to point out to their drivers that this was unacceptable behaviour.

7. Festivals in the Gardens:

a) **Trans Pride Brighton Festival:** Once again there was damage to the main gate although it was rectified fairly quickly. There were also huge amounts of litter, partly caused by Trans Pride Brighton storing it in black sacks overnight resulting in seagull attacks. It was pointed out from the floor that the noise could be heard in Western Road, especially the campaigning address system. It was also thought that it was getting too large and it was pointed out that originally Transpride was only intended to be bi-annual. Phelim pointed out that there were new organisers in 2019 and he was happy to facilitate a discussion with them and FBST should be involved. The Chair had written to Ian Taylor at the Council's Events office and he had replied that Trans Pride Brighton hadn't yet requested the use of the gardens for 2020.

b) **Brunswick Festival:** there were many complaints about noise levels and despite notices to the contrary, the gardens were full of dogs. A meeting was being arranged with the organisers.

8. **Safety and Security within the area:** A massive increase in drug dealing had become a serious problem even in daylight and in 2019 there had even been drug dealing in resident's porches and entrances. FBST have liaised with the police and reported it at LAT meetings and advised the police to investigate the middle flower beds instead of just driving round. Phelim reported that the police have promised that it will be more contained and 2 PCSOs had been appointed. **We were advised by the police that anyone seeing dealing taking place should dial 999 at the time.** This seems to be the only way to increase police surveillance.

9. **Social Events:** the planned picnic in the Square was cancelled due to rain in July but we helped to facilitate a very successful guitar recital at the Town House in October where one of our members played in the quartet. It is hoped that the Town House will repeat this in 2020.

10. **Scaffolding alarms** were recommended as it was reported that lead had been stolen from the roofs of some neighbours.

11. **Simon Dice thanked Ian Chaplin** for all his hard work over the previous 3 years as outgoing Chair of the Committee. Simon also thanked Fiona Bower who, as Treasurer recently and previously as Chair, had done an enormous amount of work for the Friends in numerous capacities and was now stepping back, but would continue to act as Treasurer.

12. **Date of Next Meeting:** Saturday 14 March 2020