

Minutes of TRESA General Meeting – 19.2.08

Present: Suzanne Audrey (Chair), Steve Sayers, Gethin Williams, Steve Terry, Helen Walford, Matt Birnie, Veronica Harris, Colin Bird, Charles Hutchings, Chris Martin, Cecile Camisa, Mary Takahama, James Dingwall, Katharine Winstanley, C. Richards, Catherine Mazza, Patrick Hulme, Pete Daly, Cilla Roberts, Claire Radford, Richard Jones, Alice Murdoch, David Larcombe, Martyn Trowbridge, Margaret Davis, Ed Bramall, and 5 non-members (including Cllr Mark Bailey).

Apologies: Alice Pollet

1. Welcome and introductions

Suzanne welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the committee.

2. Company limited by guarantee - rationale

Suzanne explained that with the award of £80,000 of Big Lottery funding, it was now recommended that we dissolve TRESA and re-establish it as a company limited by guarantee so as to reduce members' liability to a maximum of £1 each. In answer to a question, she said the only possible disadvantage was that as committee members become company directors their details would be publicly disclosed. Mark Bailey also pointed out that the organisation's accounts would have to be submitted annually.

3. Resolutions

The following resolution was proposed by Steve Sayers and seconded by Ed Bramall:

To dissolve TRESA in its current form and re-establish it as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, with the same objectives as the current organisation, in line with legal advice.

This was agreed unanimously.

A further resolution was proposed by Margaret Davis and seconded by Martyn Trowbridge:

To permit TRESA to enter into a lease with Bristol City Council, in line with legal advice, in order to progress the improvements to School Road Park following the £80,000 Big Lottery Award.

Suzanne explained that this was a condition of the grant, that the park would be leased at a peppercorn rent and the City Council would remain responsible for maintenance, and that the lease will not be signed until fully understood by the committee.

This resolution was agreed unanimously.

A final resolution was proposed by Patrick Hulme and seconded by Veronica Harris:

That the committee elected at TRESA's AGM in December 2007 continue as the committee of the new organisation until the next AGM (within 15 months of this meeting).

This resolution was agreed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's report

Steve reported £370 has been received in sponsorship and subscriptions. There is just short of £10,000 in the bank, although most of this relates to Totterdown in Print. £838.05 of unrestricted funds are available (much designated for Talk of Totterdown).

5. Membership secretary's report

Margaret urged members to renew, and visitors to the meeting to join. She is chasing subs and plans to put TRESA's bank details on the membership form, website and Talk of Totterdown so money can be paid in direct.

6. Web editor's report

Steve encouraged those present to provide him with information and pictures about events or issues in the area for inclusion on the website.

7. Members' concerns

Concerns were raised about cars getting into Victoria Park and problems at the Oxford.

8. Update on TRESA activities

a. School Road Park

Alice Pollet had produced a written report, which was read out.

b. Totterdown Square

Suzanne will organise another group to do some gardening in a month or so. Members discussed the relative merits of locating benches and litter bins around the planters.

c. Totterdown in Print

This is an advanced planning stage, photography has begun, and publication of the cookbook is aiming for July to coincide with the Bristol Food & Wine Festival. The deadline for submission of recipes is three weeks' time.

d. Totterdown Garden Festival 2008

The third annual Garden Festival will take place in June. Members were encouraged to help. It will be promoted in Talk of Totterdown.

e. Planning applications in Totterdown

Martyn reported that responses to the Local Development Framework and Statement of Community Involvement need to be submitted by 22 February. There was a discussion around the conversion of Totterdown's smaller houses to flats – it was explained that TRESA tends to oppose these applications. Martyn drew members' attention to two useful websites, and it was suggested that these be circulated again. It was agreed that some guidelines on TRESA's position should be drafted to enable Martyn to write responses on behalf of the organisation more quickly.

f. Totterdown Book Group

Meets once per month – last Sunday of the month in the Star and Dove.

g. Discussions with CLIC about cotton bags

Suzanne reported that she is meeting the fundraising manager from CLIC to discuss TRESA helping them to sell their cotton bags to local residents, so as to reduce plastic bag use and support a local charity at the same time.

9. Any other business

a. Committee vacancy

Following the AGM there was a vacancy on the committee. Catherine Mazza was nominated by Suzanne Audrey and seconded by Steve Sayers. This was endorsed by the meeting.

b. AXA

Steve reported that he has received a letter from AXA about their challenge week from 9 June. Apparently, they have ten volunteers.

c. St Lukes steps and verge

Martyn updated members on the lack of joined-up street cleaning arrangements in this area, and what he is doing about it.

d. Guide to complaining

It was suggested that an email containing useful phone numbers, etc should be circulated to members, together with the links to the planning websites referred to above.

Suzanne thanked everyone in attendance for their encouragement and support.

Date of next general meeting: Tuesday 15 April.