

MINUTES OF MEETING

🏠 **Location:** Cockington Visitor Centre
📅 **Date:** 11/02/2019
🕒 **Time:** 6.30 pm

In Attendance

Chair: Robin Emdon, Membership Secretary: Jill Read

Cllr Nicole Amil, Pauline Baker, Andrew Baker, Trevor Barker, Olwyn Barker, Ray Faux, Lee James, John van Kuyk, John Read, Chris Shareeler(?), Sally Thomas, Guy Tucker, Georgina Uren, Fiona Wilmhurst

For Torbay Coast & Countryside (TCCT) Trust: Mags Brazendale, Jen Breen, Edd Chillcott, Rebecca Jack, Damian Offer, Hannah Worthington

For Torbay Development Agency (TDA): Marissa Wakefield

Apologies: Nicky Baker Margaret Carson, Carol Collins, Gary Collins, Jennifer Howard, Rita Jackson, Heather Mosely, Marge Pye, Mardie Short, Neil Stanlake

Meeting Opened

Chair opened meeting at 6.30pm and outlined new format to meetings, with guest speaker, Chair's Report and invitation for anyone to speak on items not on agenda – time and relevance allowing.

Chair suggested that minutes from previous meeting should be read and approved at the start of each meeting, even where the previous meeting was an AGM. Proposed by JVK, seconded by NA.

Guest Speaker

Cllr Nicole Amil was introduced as Guest Speaker for this meeting. NA spoke about why she is a Councilor, its challenges and the activities she has been involved with through this role. Questions were taken from the floor at the end of her talk.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the 2018 AGM were read and approved.

Chair added note of thanks to Neil Stanlake, as previous Chair and to Mary Phillips, former FVOCCP Secretary, who has recently moved from Devon and has therefore stepped down from her post. Vacancy for Vice Chair and Secretary noted.

Chair's Report

Chair's report accompanies this document.

Agenda Items

1. Membership Secretary's Report:

Just under 100 members in the mailing list

ST asked about being added to emailing list – JR informed meeting that anyone interested in being added to the mailing list can leave their details for with Visitor Centre to pass to her

Suggested that Visitor Centre could carry some promotion of FVOCCP group

RE emphasized need for FVCCP group to have some facility/means to be contactable

2. FOCCP Facebook Group:

RE informed meeting that there are more than 850 members of the FVCCP Facebook group.

FVCCP page needs to be promoted – could this be via the Visitor Centre and TCCT?

There is also now a History of Cockington Facebook group with 400+ members. However, this group is not connected with the FVCCP group.

3. Updates:

Cockington Green Heart Project Update

- HW introduced MB and EC – two newest long term volunteers who will be helping with the project delivery and outlined the individual area of the project they will be working on.
- HW outlined work to do before end of project in 4½ months.
- Evaluation of project underway, being carried out by external evaluators Clarity CIC, will produce a report for end of the project. They will be contacting volunteers, FVCCP and TCCT members with an online survey, meetings/conversations for different groups and possible follow up phone conversations for a small number of people.
- HW asked if any volunteers available to help with visitor surveys in school Easter Holidays.
- HW informed group that there will be a celebration event held in the park on 18th May – this will be by invitation for those who have been directly involved in the Green Heart Project.
- Visitor Centre will be open for half term and then will reopen from end of March for rest the season (10am to 4pm, Tues – Sun). Flower beds to be planted soon by volunteers. RJ asked thanks to be noted to all volunteers and said shop was to carry new stock for this season.
- HW noted thanks to all volunteers who had helped make Christmas openings at Visitor Centre a success. There had been excellent feedback from visitors about the activities. HW to check amount raised.
- Practical volunteer groups continuing on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the park. MS confirmed that the Tues group will be stepping up a gear to prep the Rose Garden for summer.
- Lakes: clearing of sedge around lower lake/stream continuing. Some more planting to do. Middle pond to be restocked once Newton Abbot Fishing Association is able to supply fish – RF confirmed they are waiting for a pond to be drained down to remove stock (roach, rudd and some gudgeon).

- HW outlined the planned works for the entrance way from the Drum Inn gardens to the park – removal of boardwalk and replacement of existing kissing gate with wider pedestrian gate with opening latch. DO further explained the restrictions that necessitated this work rather than the original plans for a new access path from the gateway into the park, including planning consent, cost and providing accessibility for all visitors.
- In response to matter raised by LJ regarding information provision when Visitor Centre closed, HW outlined plans to install new noticeboards/ welcome/information panels at locations in the park (nr. Lower Lodge, the Visitor Centre and nr. The Court) to help visitors find their way around the park and village and to be able to promote businesses, activities and events.

Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust Update

- DO emphasized that at this time, with the project drawing to a close, that TCCT would be looking at the legacy of the project and how work in the park will go forward.
- JVK asked about TCCT's capacity for volunteers, in particular regarding numbers and safety and JR asked about Cirl Bunting feeding project she had been volunteering for. DO outlined some of the issues facing TCCT regards volunteering – support, management, training, availability and provision of suitable, safe and interesting tasks and activities. He stated that TCCT is looking closely at how volunteering will go forwards within the Trust as a whole. RJ, MS and HW agreed that these were issues and that they were working with DO on these areas. DO emphasized importance for volunteers and FVCCP to get involved in the evaluation and that those findings will be used to help inform TCCT going forward.
- DO outlined how Visitor Centre is being prepared for the new season and the increase in stock – told the meeting the center needed to run at cost neutral but hopefully with a surplus, which will then go for the park.
- Re enquired about benefit to Cockington if there is a successful deal with Torbay Council regarding land it is acquiring – Do responded that there is a financial deal available however, the bulk of any money would be used to pay a debt of £9000 to the Council, as well as £800,000 from a Capital Grant dating from 2011. TCCT is currently looking at investing in Ocombe Farm as a farm attraction to generate revenue which would then allow for increased investment in sites such as Cockington.
- In response to Chair's report regarding defibrillator, DO reiterated that TCCT will be happy for the unit to be located at the Visitor Centre. He will look into planning consents that may be required and TCCT will cover cost of installation.
- RF raised matter of installing lifebelts around The Lakes and suggested installation of fencing at points around lower and middle lake where edge is steep – DO said he had looked at issues. TCCT not obliged to provide, ponds are not too deep and following silt removal the risk is assessed to be low. Will look at locations where fencing needed and evaluate need at discussed locations.

Torbay Development Agency Update

- MW opened with message to ask people to support the makers at the court – through promotion and encouraging visitors
- Event and exhibition dates were listed

- MW outlined the TDA's involvement with the Blessing of the Horses being organized by Kirk and Hannah of K&H Carriages on 6th May
- Told the meeting about the sculpture trail which will be running for the 3rd year over the summer season and detailed the sculptors involved and that they can offer outreach sessions to schools and groups, (this was offered on behalf of the makers at the Court as well as sculptress).
- MW welcomed a small number of new businesses that have moved into the craft units and gave details of their work.
- She invited people to view new videos of the makers that have been created. These can be viewed on the 'Shorely' website.
- A reunion of some of the Mallock family is to take place at the Court on 19th Sept, to include a church service.
- Invited any FVCCP members to contact her via email if they had any questions.

4. Items open to the floor to raise

- GT enquired as to why camper vans were allowed to park in the car park, as there was supposed to be no overnight parking –DO responded that TCCT was aware of the issue and informed meeting that it was being dealt with
- GT informed the meeting that there was still fencing in Hellinghay Woods and at the bottom end of the meadow near Gamekeepers remaining from the time of the desilting work on the ponds – DO & HW asked for details and said that they would speak to the TCCT Estate Team to have this removed.
- GT asked about bringing the meadows back into pasture – DO explained that it will be grazed and that this is being dealt with (along with removal of brambles)
- RE read out an emailed question from Gary Collins raising issue of bramble in Coakington lane obscuring road signs (for no parking) – DO said that he would follow this up and action if TCCT responsible, stating that this may be in the autumn due to nesting birds in hedgerows.
- GC also raised matter [via email] of gulleys and drains along the lane being cleared regularly but that they still blocked – DO to speak to GC for details. NA informed meeting that issue has been addressed in the past.

Any Other Business

GT asked about availability of minutes from FVCCP - HW informed meeting that the minutes of each of the last 4 meetings are available from FVCCP page on TCCT website

Chair invited feedback on new meeting format.

Next Meeting

Monday 13th May 2019 | 6.30pm | Cockington Visitor Centre