



## FRIENDS OF ARNOLD CIRCUS

Minutes of the committee meeting for November 2011 held at Leila's cafe

<http://foac.org.uk/>

**Attendance:** Jenny Bernard, Jason Caffrey, Farid Djebrouni, Alice Herrick, Naseem Khan (Minutes), Jean Locker, Leila McAlister, Finn Williams (Chair).

**1. Apologies:** Jalal Aziz, Robin Hatton-Gore, Marine Shah.

**2. Previous minutes:**

The October minutes were accepted as an accurate record. Farid was thanked for all his hard work on minute taking.

**3. Matters arising**

Jean will meet up with Andy to sort out his hours; Alice will see what the position is with the input of Rochelle's gardener.

The application to part of Open Garden Squares Weekend has arrived, and Jean and Naseem will complete it.

Jean will look out pictures of current plants to put on the noticeboard, and Robin is to be asked to laminate the OpenOpen poster for it.

**4. Award**

The committee was pleased that the renovation to Arnold Circus/Boundary Gardens has won Highly Commended in the annual Landscape Design Awards. Naseem will see if there is a logo to go on the blog; it should also be mentioned in the application to Open Squares.

**5. Funding**

Applications have not been successful this year, but draft figures suggested that the bulk of the events should be covered by appropriate carried forward funds.

However, this could be jeopardised if the threat of having to compensate the Council for lost parking revenue is carried through. Naseem is to follow up with Shazia and ask for a firm indication of the state of play by the Friends' January meeting. In the meantime, Finn advised, the budget should be based on the worst-case scenario.

Alice explained her thinking around the OlymPicnic, and will present a budget for the January meeting, having consulted with Marine. A centrepiece will be the work developed by Nimble Fish with Virginia Primary School around invented games and the real nature of competition.

Naseem reported that a Bangladeshi restaurateur had offered to help with the Biggest Samosa in the World. Women at St Hilda's are to be asked if the idea of a record-breaking project (that or any other) would attract their involvement. Alice asked all to send her ideas of what they would like to see at the Picnic.



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On funding – Jean had discovered that a cheque sent by Tower Hill had never arrived. She will collect a replacement, but it was also agreed that a closer check needs to be taken on the safe arrival of cheques.

### **6. Health**

Naseem described her alarm at the stats around obesity, diabetes etc she had learned at a recent conference on the relevance of parks to health. It was decided that a short booklet or checklist could be developed that detailed and illustrated exercises using Arnold Circus for health (the circumference, steps, benches etc) and possibly distributed via medical centres. Naseem is to investigate.

### **7. Bench**

Deena Omar's bench was formally 'opened' in a lovely ceremony the previous Sunday.

Jean asked if the remaining side panel of the vintage bench could be replicated and the bench remade. This was agreed, and film money is to be checked and targeted for its funding.

Leila brought up the Time for Tea bench. It was agreed all should see it in Rochelle before the January meeting. It should be proposed to the Council.

### **8. Service Level Agreement (SLA)**

Finn and Leila had met with the Council but felt that there were clauses that needed further scrutiny. He is to take advice and then communicate our views to the Council. He will circulate his track changes to date. Jason suggested that Your Square Mile might help with insurance cover and will contact Finn.

### **9. Meeting Day:**

It was agreed that the Friends' monthly meeting would move to be on the last Tuesday of every month, if all agree. Farid will email all trustees and those who attend meetings regularly, and Megan will be asked to put it on the blog.

### **10. Any other business:**

The question of the bandstand being licensed for weddings was brought up again, and it was generally agreed would be a very good thing. Jenny will check with Brighton about the background to their licensed beach bandstand, and Naseem will speak to the couple planning their humanist blessing on the bandstand about their researches.

### **11. Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be in January, on Tuesday the 31st at 6.50pm, Leila's Café.