

**DRAFT - Minutes of the Meeting of the
Fitzroy Square Frontagers' & Garden Committee
Held at House No. 15
On Wednesday 18th January 2017
From 5.00 – 6.20 p.m.**

1. Introductions and Apologies:

Pierre de Weck thanked those present for coming, wished everyone a happy new year and apologies were recorded.

Present: (Committee)	Pierre de Weck	(Chairman, No. 15)
	Rosaleen Hubbard	(Hon Secretary, No. 16a)
	David Griffiths	(Hon Treasurer)
	Edward Turner	(No. 25)
	Peter Frank	(No. 27)
	Wesley Skow	(No. 8)
	Charles Stephens	(No. 20)
	Rebecca Carrigan	(Flat 3, No.14)
	Roberto Kouyoumdjian	(No. 6)
	Heide Eyles	(No. 22)
	Julian Flitter	(No. 29/30)
	Claire Bruce	(No. 18)
	Kitty Edwards-Jones	(No. 25b)
	Neil Phoenix	(No. 24)
	Richard Greer	(No. 11)

Apologies:

Adrian Dawson	(No. 40)
Jo Rhys-Jones	(No. 2)
Birgit Maass	(No. 16)

In Attendance: Pia Fahl (minutes)

2. Approval of minutes of 2nd November 2016

No written comments were received. Minutes of 2nd November 2016 were approved.

3. Honorary Treasurer's Report

David Griffiths gave a verbal report. The budget was distributed prior to the meeting.

The total cash funds amount to £122,128.34.

The Liberian Embassy remains in arrears in respect of the Garden Levy. Heide Eyles is dealing with this.

The Hon Treasurer stated that the budget would fall short by £11,000 next year. It was discussed to either cut out things from the expenditure list or increase the levy.

The Chairman recommended not to touch the levy as reserves are available. There was a unanimous decision to keep the levy for business occupiers and council tax payers the same.

4. Discussion of Governance and Proposed by laws

Pierre de Weck reported that there were lots of opinions prior to the meeting. The majority is against a constitution. Requests to make it simple are not easy to fulfil. It was decided not to proceed with the constitution at this point. It was however decided that the capital expenditure budget would require approval by the Frontagers at the annual meeting. The discussions about the constitution continued. Peter Frank added that the constitution could be a backfire. He stated that only 4 squares in London have a voluntary payment scheme. Fitzroy Square being one of them!

It was remarked, that the discussions around the constitution had been very useful during the past year. People got to think about it and preferred resolving problems as neighbours.

The Chairman confirmed that the Fitzroy Square Frontagers and Garden Committee would continue without a formal constitution.

Action Point: Present to AGM what needs to be approved every year and who should be a Frontager.

5. Report of the Garden Director

a) Window boxes

Edward Turner reported that he still needed to meet with Kay Williams.

b) North and South Gate - update

A short update was given. It was addressed that there are security issues. People are sleeping on the benches in the garden and therefore the rear door needs to be repaired. Right now, people are jumping over the fences.

The execution of the North Gate should begin in March 2017.

The high costs of the South Gate were discussed again. If a simple solution could be found, the cost could be considerably reduced. The Chairman noted that the South Gate was decided and therefore it also needed to be implemented. The current quote from Metalcraft would however mean that about 20% of the reserve would need to be touched.

Action Point: The Chairman requested that Edward Turner comes back with a quote at around £5,000 – 10,000.

Edward Turner mentioned that Jo Rhys-Jones donated many bulbs to the garden and wanted to thank her. Edward also suggested to change the expenditure planning of the garden. Window boxes should become a lower priority, but planting in the garden should become more important.

Neil Phoenix had received a message from students that they would be happy to help with the garden maintenance.

c) Garden Events Diary

A little reminder that Frontagers receive priority booking for any events. So far, no Frontagers' party has been refused. The Chairman thanked Heide Eyles and Claire Bruce for their commitment. The Open Garden Square Weekend 2017 on 17/18 June was approved.

Wesley Skow gave an update on the trees in the garden. Two robinias are left (not part of the garden design). The robinia near the gate has a huge crack. The recommendation is to take the weight down for safety reasons. The other robinia will be removed. In addition, there are 4 plain trees in the garden (30 – 50 years old) where the tree surgent suggested to cut the lower branches. Approval for this will be needed.

Heide Eyles remarked that after some trees had been taken away, the floor in the garden had become uneven.

6. Any other business

Filming: Some neighbours find the light very disturbing. This has been addressed. According to the Frontagers' filming guidelines, 20 days of filming per year are agreed. The level of donation is dependent on filming days.

Action Point: The Chairman asked Roberto Kouyoumdjian to prepare a report on the filming activity.

Charles Stephens reported that the safety check for the electricity box in the garden was done in November 2016. It was noted that two lights on the statue needed to be replaced.

mail on the Fitzroy Square Herald: Excellent response from around the Square. She will get on with it. It will be a one or two pager.

Wesley Skow suggested, that the public access to the garden needed to be discussed at the AGM in May 2017. The costs to open it up for the public and also tear and wear should be on the agenda.

7. Dates of future meetings:

Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 19th April at 5.00 p.m. – will be changed

Committee Meeting: Wednesday, 17th May at 4.30 p.m.

AGM: Wednesday, 17th May at 5.30 p.m.

The Chairman thanked everyone present.

Meeting ended at 6.20 pm.