

## Friends of Bude Sea Pool 2024 Annual General Meeting

24 March 2024, The Falcon Hotel, Bude

**Trustees:** Chair: Paul Tilzey (PT); Vice-Chair: Martyn Holehouse (MHo); Trustee: Chris Cannon; Trustee: Stella James (SJ), Trustee: Sarah Moore (SM)

<b>Trustees, Committee and Members present:</b> See Appendix 1 <b>Apologies received:</b> See Appendix 2	
	<b>Action owner</b>
<b>1 CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME – PT</b>  PT opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. With more than 10 members present (see Appendix 1), the meeting was declared quorate.	
<b>2. APOLOGIES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST AGM 26 MARCH 2023</b>  <b>Apologies received:</b> See Appendix 2  <b>Matters arising from 26 March 2023:</b> There were no matters arising from the 2023 AGM. Draft minutes have been available on the FOBSP Website and a copy was provided to all attendees at today’s meeting. Approval of the 2023 AGM minutes will take place later in the meeting.	
<b>3. CHAIRMAN’S OVERVIEW - PT</b>  PT emphasised that the pool is largely run by volunteers which reflects the pool’s ethos. He noted that the few paid staff contribute far in excess of their official hours.  Looking ahead, PT would like to see the Town Council take over ownership of the pool, rather than the County Council, to facilitate more streamlined decision making on matters designed to enhance the pool. For example, in relation to building a higher specification hub building with sanitary facilities which would be of great benefit to the community. There would be no cost to the Town Council as FoBSP meets all running costs.	

<p>PT explained that he now feels it is time for him to step back from his role as Chair but he will be pleased to continue involvement in the proposed new role of Honorary President. (Refer to item 8.4 below for the resolution to approve this.)</p>	
<p><b>4. THANK YOU – MHo</b></p> <p>MHo gave thanks for the dedication to the pool of the Trustees, Committee members, volunteers and friends who between them have an array of skills and talents to bring to the operation of the pool.</p> <p>MHo proposed that PT be nominated as Honorary President, a role that will not have voting rights, and gave special thanks to PT for his enormously valuable contribution to the pool over the years.</p> <p>MHo also noted that it is proposed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SM take the role of Chair, in place of PT.</li> <li>- MHo will hand over his role as Vice-Chair to Chris Cannon.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. TREASURER’S REPORT - SM</b></p> <p>A copy of the draft accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023 was presented to all attendees. SM outlined the financial performance of the pool in 2022/23. She noted that sales of merchandise have increased overall, largely due to sales at the pool. The performance of shop in the Summerleaze carpark has remained static and there have been issues with staffing. Therefore, the operation of the shop is to be reviewed.</p> <p>Regarding expenditure, SM noted that costs have increased significantly over the last few years, from under £100,000 in 2018/19 to over £220,000 in 2022/23. Cost increases partly reflect maintenance costs which are significantly impacted by environmental conditions. SM also referenced the reserves that the Trustees feel necessary to set aside as a precaution against future environmental and other damage, particularly given climate change and rising sea levels. Cost increases are also reflective of increased staff costs. The Trustees are acutely aware that costs need to be carefully managed and attention is being paid to this in 2023/24, including not replacing the Charity Manager role.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the cost of rebuilding the pool if there was significant damage or its current location became untenable. MHo and Chris Menlove-Platt noted that the cost of replacing the entire sea wall is estimated at £7 million.</p>	

<p><b>6. FACILITIES UPDATE – MHo</b></p> <p>MHo noted some of the operational issues during the year. These included a dead sheep being washed into the pool, and a large tree-trunk being swept in which damaged an area of railings. Events like these underline the environmental challenges facing the pool. This year, as well as regular maintenance, there will be a focus on safety and access improvements, including access ramps to the beach huts.</p>	
<p><b>7. OPERATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS' UPDATE – SJ/CC</b></p> <p>SJ emphasised the beneficial impact of the hub on the pool users' experience and the increasingly positive recognition of the pool both in the UK and internationally, as one of the world's finest tidal pools. SJ also referenced the increase in popularity of cold-water swimming and thanked all volunteers and the Bude Open Water Swimming Society (BOWS) who have made possible events such as the regular night swims during the winter months. In particular SJ thanked BOWS for their financial contribution to the purchase of a digital thermometer and associated display screen.</p> <p>CC emphasised the huge contribution made by all volunteers who have helped the pool succeed, with particular thanks to Julie Barlow (JB), the volunteer co-ordinator.</p>	
<p><b>8. RESOLUTIONS – CC</b></p> <p><b><u>8.1 That the following Trustees be re-elected and/or elected to the following roles:</u></b></p> <p>Sarah Moore (currently Trustee and Treasurer) re-elected as a Trustee and elected Chair.  Martyn Holehouse (currently Vice-Chair and Trustee) re-elected as a Trustee.  Stella James (currently Trustee) re-elected as a Trustee.  Chris Cannon (currently Trustee) to be re-elected as a Trustee and elected Vice-Chair.</p> <p><b>And</b> that the following be elected as new Trustees:  Suzanne Bennett  Kelly Kemp</p> <p>The above was approved by all attendees except for 3 abstentions.</p>	

**8.2 That the following Committee members be re-elected to the Committee**

Sean Collins-Powell (SCP)  
Mark Henderson (MHe)  
Christopher Menlove-Platt (CMP)  
Elaine Viner (EV)  
Lisa Bragg (LB)

The above was approved by all attendees except for 3 abstentions.

**8.3 That the following special resolutions (previously circulated to Members) be approved:**

1. Changes to Articles of Association no.4 (Objects) and no. 14 (Quorum in meetings)
2. Changes to the Rules were voted on and accepted by the Members.

CC noted that these resolutions had been previously voted on by Members and approved by 147 Members with 2 abstentions. They were confirmed at the meeting. Changes will be confirmed to Companies House within 15 days of this meeting.

CC

**8.4 That PT be appointed as Honorary President**

This was unanimously approved.

**8.5 That the Minutes of the AGM of 26 March 2023 be approved**

This was approved by all attendees except for 5 abstentions.

**8.6 That the Accounts for Year ending 31 October 2023 be approved**

This was approved by all attendees except for 1 abstention (CMP due to conflict of interest given his role in preparing the accounts).

<p><b>9. AOB</b></p> <p>9.1 SJ and all Trustees and attendees gave thanks to Josie Dean for her enormous contribution to FoBSP in her role as Charity Manager which she recently resigned. SJ also thanked James Marshall for his service to the FOBSP Committee as the Pool Users Representative.</p> <p>A question was raised about lack of use of some huts. SM noted the incidences of unused huts are being reviewed, particularly as there is a long waiting list for huts.</p> <p>9.2 A question was raised about any risks relating to swimming in brown spume which is occasionally present in the pool. PT noted that the spume is caused by an interaction of the high lime-content sand in Bude and agricultural run-off, and is not indicative of sewage pollution. However, it was noted that there are increasing occasions when water quality is affected by sewage and pool staff are alerted by South West Water when there has been a sewage release and this is publicised around the pool. Deb Rosser (DR), the Pool Manager, noted that information on current water quality can be found on the South West Water website under ‘Waterfit Live’.</p> <p>9.3 A question was raised about the current recruitment exercise for a new Pool Users Representative. SM and SJ explained the application process which closes on 30 March 2024. Currently there are two full applications and a potential third application is in process. Billy O’Mahoney, representing BOWS, asked if BOWS would be able to participate in the appointment process. SM and SJ confirmed that this would be possible once candidates have been shortlisted.</p> <p>9.4 A question was raised about whether FoBSP have approached Historic Pools of Britain. CMP explained that this is in process, as well as membership of the association of lidos in the UK.</p> <p>9.5 Some attendees raised questions about gaps in communications from FOBSP during the year. SM noted that a new Communications Manager is starting on 8 April 2024. CMP will check that Members’ emails have all been captured in the MailChimp application used to send bulk emails.</p> <p>9.6 A question was raised regarding how the Charity Manager’s responsibilities will be allocated if the paid role is not being replaced. SJ noted that some of these responsibilities will be passed to the new Communications Manager and others will be shared out, so as not to create a burden on other staff and volunteers.</p>	<p>CMP</p> <p>CMP</p>
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<p>9.7 A question was raised regarding the process for appointing the new volunteer shop manager role. JB noted that a Job Description has been developed and there is a meeting with a potential candidate shortly but other expressions of interest are welcome.</p>	
<p><b>10. CLOSE – SM</b></p> <p>SM reiterated appreciation due to all pool staff, volunteers, friends and supporters. Also to PT for his extraordinary contribution to the pool, which she will aim to emulate.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 16:02.</p>	

## APPENDIX 1

### Members in attendance (31)

<p><b>Trustees (5):</b> Chris Cannon Martyn Holehouse Stella James Sarah Moore Paul Tilzey</p> <p><b>Committee (4):</b> Sean Collins-Powell Mark Henderson Chris Menlove-Platt Elaine Viner</p> <p><b>Staff (2):</b> Julie Barlow Deb Rosser</p> <p><b>Minute taker (1):</b> Ros Stow</p>	<p><b>Friends (19):</b> Sally Blayney Margaret Burch June Clark Sue Craig Kitty Dew Jill Furneaux Fran Goodger Jan Lathem Fay Lee Billy O'Mahoney Jeff Palmer James Rowland Jackie Shaw Gillian Sabotig Jayne Taberner Lindsay Thorne Mary Tilzey Chris Virgin Heather Virgin</p>
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## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Apologies received**

Tim Benson

Lisa Bragg

Josie Dean

Paul Hayman

Mark Henderson

Steve Horsfield

Kelly Kemp

Mark Matthews

Nicola Matthews

Margaret Tubb

Karen Webber