

# **Friends of The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum**

## **Synopsis of the Minutes of the Trustees' Committee meeting held on 12 November 2025**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Present: Judie Hodsdon (JH), Michael Bourne (MB), Andy D'Souza (AD), Cristina Hall (CH), Katharina Hoerath (KH) – trustees. Emma Ferry (EF), Freddie Gick (FG) – potential trustees

Apologies had been received from Rachel Roberts, Steve Sasanow and Irene Finlayson

### **2. Wilson and Trust update**

Lisa Edgar and Layla Gatens (curator for managing exhibitions) gave an update on the museum's activities and development. The importance of partnerships with other galleries was emphasised. The next temporary exhibition will be on Paula Rego and opens on 30 January 2026. It continues until 10 May. The opening night will be on 29 January and all Friends will be invited to attend.

The emerging plan for art in the Friends Gallery is for a mixture of new and established artists, including abstract art and photography. Changing exhibits will be facilitated by a new on-site storage facility funded by FoTW money. Local history will be covered in the Victorian wing galleries. The exhibitions team is only 1.5 full time employees, so they rely heavily on volunteers.

Lisa reported that FoTW funding had been used for polling in the Big Museum Project, to support social media (Instagram has a big following), for online content (the new website has been launched) and the creation of a first audio guide (on women in arts and crafts). The Wilson has applied for a £50k grant from the Art Fund for a post to digitise the collection further.

### **3. New Trustees**

The co-option of Dr Emma Ferry and Mr Freddie Gick as trustees of The Friends of The Wilson was unanimously approved. JH

recorded her thanks to former trustee, Vanessa Graham, for all her hard work in support of the work of FoTW.

#### **4. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 September 25**

The minutes were approved.

#### **5. Chair Update**

JH had no additional information to report.

#### **6. Strategy day**

This will take place on Friday 23 January 2026 at the Spa Bowling Club in Cheltenham.

#### **7. Events**

KH began by praising the indispensable work of Sue Reeves and Alison Pascoe in creating and managing the events programme, which is in place up to April. Ideas for future events include, a talk by the architects of the Golden Valley Project, a tour led by Nick Nelson of Cheltenham College Chapel window and Edward Wilson-related artefacts in the College archives, and a wine tasting at the Grape Escape. The Study Tour to Northumberland has 20 people enrolled already. Further outings are under consideration.

The Nook fundraising event raised about £2k net.

#### **8. Finance**

AD reported £12k income to date this year with around £40K in unrestricted funds. Two legacies are still pending. A further payment of £26K is due to the Wilson, the last instalment for the Victorian wing exhibitions.

#### **9. Membership**

MB and CH reported that they have taken over the running of the membership system after a useful session with the retiring membership secretary, Vanessa Graham. There are currently 260 members plus life Members.

#### **10. Communications**

MB will be sending out the next newsletter in the near future.

## **11. AOB**

There was none.

## **12. Dates of next meetings**

Committee meetings - 14 January 2026, 11 March 2026, 6 May 2026, 8 July 2026, 9 September 2026, 11 November 2026 (all at the Wilson at 2pm). Strategy Day – 23 January 2026 at the Spa Bowling Club 10am to 3pm. AGM -dates to be decided.