

Friends of The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

Minutes of the Trustees' Committee meeting held on 14 January 2026

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Judie Hodsdon (JH), Michael Bourne (MB), Andy D'Souza (AD), Cristina Hall (CH), Irene Finlayson (IF), Freddie Gick (FG), Steven Sasanov (SS).

Apologies had been received from Emma Ferry, Kat Hoerath and Rachel Roberts.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2025

JH thanked CH for preparing the Minutes. Three corrections were noted and a final version will be circulated to members.

Action: IF

3. Review of update given by Lisa Edgar on 7 January.

A Teams meeting had been set up with Lisa Edgar and Jessica Brewster but the latter had been ill on the day so Lisa Edgar had given an update on the Wilson. JH provided a summary for those who had been unable to participate. Of particular note was the planned opening of the Victorian wing in October and the excellent response to the BMP (the data from this was currently being processed). The museum would be applying for a grant from the Arts Council in 2027. MB confirmed that he would reorganise a meeting with Jessica.

4. Chair Update

There was nothing to report that did not appear elsewhere.

5. Strategy day

This will take place on Friday 23 January 2026 at the Spa Bowling Club in Cheltenham From 10 to 3 pm. Relevant papers will be emailed before the day.

6. Events

As KH was not in attendance, there was no report but members who had attended the recent Sunday musical event reported that it had been very good.

7. Finance and Fundraising

AD reported that £14.5K income had been raised to date and we were ahead of the £12K budgeted for the year. It was likely that the total for the year would be around £15K, with gift aid to be added. Donations to the Wilson have been fully paid. The event at the Nook had raised over £2.5K profit and the silent auction had been very successful. The study tour to Lincoln had also raised a healthy sum. No event had raised less than £100 in the current financial year. The donation from PJ's Christmas sale had yet to be received (Secretary's note - PJ has now emailed JH to report that the Friends would be receiving a cheque for £5,334).

8. Membership

Friends' membership was in decline and was now under 300. This would be a discussion item at the Strategy Day.

9. Communications/Marketing

MB reported that he had just sent out a Newsletter.

10. Any other business

Suggested dates for the AGM were 18 June, 25 June and 2 July. Members were asked to look at these dates by the Strategy Day. SS volunteered to set up a new What's App group for Trustees.

Action: SS

11. Dates of next meetings

Committee meetings - 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.