

Friends of The Wilson, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

Minutes of the Trustees' Committee meeting held on 8 July 2026

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Judie Hodsdon(JH), Cristina Hall(CH), Irene Finlayson (IF), Emma Ferry(EF), Freddie Gick(FG), Kat Hoerath(KH)

JH welcomed everyone. Apologies had been received from Michael Bourne, Andy d'Souza, Rachel Roberts and Steven Sasanow.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2026.

The Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising that did not appear elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Chair Update

There was nothing to report at this time.

4. Review of AGM and any Actions Arising

It was agreed by those who had attended the AGM that it had gone well and JH noted that some attendees had expressed their appreciation of LE's presentation on the reopening of the Victorian Galleries. Election of Officers should have included KH so it was agreed that she be co-opted meanwhile and put forward for formal re-election in 2027.

5. Proposal to refurbish stained glass window at the Wilson

A group of former and current Friends had offered to fund the entire transportation and repair of this object, which had been

damaged in a storm in 2022. The repair would be undertaken by the original artist. What remained of the glass was currently in storage. The group had now approached the Trustees, asking them to add their voices to the plea for at least a repair if not a reinstatement. There was concern that the original artist was growing older and might not be able to effect the repair if there were a lengthy delay. At present she felt that there could be a successful repair. The Trust had commissioned the design and the Friends had paid for it. The Trustees agreed that the question of a repair should be pursued, even if the window was not reinstated in its original place. It was an asset and the Friends had paid a substantial sum of money for it. JH agreed to try to discover the views of the Council on this and to pursue with the Wilson if possible.

Action: JH

6. Report from Events Team

KH reported that the talk on the Golden Valley project would now take place later in the year. Talks and events had been organised for the rest of the calendar year apart from December. KH was pursuing ideas for a fundraising event then. It was hoped to have an evening event with the Artists in Residence being interviewed. It was still planned to have a dinner at the Wilson to coincide with the reopening of the Victorian Galleries but the original date of 21 October no longer suited the Wilson. It would probably be moved to the following week.

KH had made a contact at the Serpentine Gallery in London which might be useful for developing ideas and cooperation.

JH asked if there had been any discussion about a study tour in 2027 and IF confirmed that she and Sue Reeves had decided the

destination should be somewhere in the South or South-East of England.

7. Finance and Fundraising

AD had circulated the most recent financial information and it was agreed that everything looked on track. There were four legacies still outstanding but bequests should come to the Friends in due course.

FG reported that sponsorship ideas were not proving straightforward and that so far nothing had progressed with Derby Museum. He suggested that the Friends consider other ideas for raising money and thought a Corporate Member scheme worth exploring. Organisations would donate say £500 per annum and would be offered some benefits in return. FG agreed to put some thoughts down in writing for further discussion. KH and EF agreed to think about events that might appeal to potential Corporate clients.

Action: FG, KH, EF

8. Membership

It was clear that numbers were down and that there was a case for rationalising the membership list as many members were no longer contactable or able or had discontinued telephone lines. JH made a plea that there was careful scrutiny of people continuing to pay their membership fees who otherwise appeared to be dormant.

SS had suggested that the Friends staff a table during the summer near to the family play activities, which were being financed by the Friends. A supply of leaflets about joining the Friends would be required. IF agreed to contact Vanessa Graham to check if she had the original art work for the current leaflet.

Action: SS, IF

9. Communications/Marketing

A Newsletter was expected to go out next week and there had been a recent email about FG's forthcoming talk.

There had been no developments on the website.

Action: MB, SS

10. Any other business

No other business was raised.

11. Dates of next meetings

Committee meetings - 9 September 2026 (1pm at the Wilson) and 11 November 2026(at the Wilson, time to be decided).

Trustees were asked to consider the suggestion of moving committee meetings to a Tuesday in 2027 to avoid conflict with the programme of talks. Please let IF know your views on this.