



Note of Meeting

Tuesday, 12th January, 2010 7.15pm
Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Rd

Present

Susan (Chair) Rob (WPO), Jude (Treas) Kit (Memb Sec), Bryan (Cttee) Helen (Minutes)

Apologies

Fabian, Gillian. Laura, Margaret, Norman,

NB the meeting recognised that severe weather conditions probably precluded others from attending

The notes of the previous meeting and of the AGM were approved.

Issues and thank you's for our Community Parks Officer, Area Parks Manager and Park Keeper

- works on the replacement fence and gate at Greendown

FOTH has given Bristol Council a list of the few items remaining to be finished before the site can be regarded as complete, preferably to be addressed in the next two weeks.

- continued excellent maintenance on the Hill

FOTH had cleared away some makeshift sledges following the snowy weather and there might be more cleanup needed after the snow has melted.

- new benches

The poor weather had so far prevented the installation of the benches. Rob and Kit set a date for Friday 22 January (in the event, heavy rain intervened and the work was postponed).

- soil falling from Troopers Hill on to Troopers Hill Rd

Jamie and Jan Walters (Parks Ecology Officer) had visited the site and noted that the amount of spoil had increased substantially in the preceding six weeks.

Action Jamie had agreed to explore the situation further with Highways colleagues. Senior Parks, Environment and Leisure officers were planning to visit the site on Friday 15 January.

Bryan reported the Summerhill Terrace entrance to the Field was really muddy inside the kissing gate. Jamie had said that scalplings would be put down.

Events for this year

- publicity

Rob had printed a small number of leaflets which he circulated at the meeting. Members suggested some minor amendments. The events list had been posted on the web site. They had also been posted to the Breathing Places and VOSCUR web sites. In addition, FOTH would ensure events were e-mailed to BBC Radio Bristol. Copies needed to be put in Libraries and Doctors surgeries where permissible. The age categories for the Photo Competition were clarified (under -16/ 16 and over).

Kit suggested that FOTH adopt and display a form of reminder for taking litter home.

- costs

All the costs for the planned events had come in at or under budget and would be affordable.

- International Year of Biodiversity

Susan commented that the UN had designated 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, she reminded Friends to be alert to this and possibly explore opportunities for favourable publicity.

Play facilities on Troopers Hill Field

The council contractors had completed construction of the play area during the snowy weather just before Christmas.

A large number of the hazels planted as a screen had been uprooted and thrown over the allotment fence. Rob and Susan had replanted as many of them as possible and reported the damage. The destruction had continued and only about 20 remained. No motive was attributed but it was decided that it was probably not worth the effort to replace them. It was agreed that it was more important for to devote resources to the activities in the Management Plan, particularly as so many work parties outside the bird nesting season had been abandoned because of bad weather.

Work parties

- completed since the last meeting

Saturday 5th December, Friends had planted a hazel screen in the new play area on Troopers Hill Field (see above)

Saturday 9th January – cancelled because of snow

- Next work parties

Saturday, 6th February – pruning the hedge at Greendown, and possibly cutting encroaching bramble from amongst heather.

The meeting discussed the future maintenance of the hedge. It was envisaged that FOTH would continue to prune it for the foreseeable future, there might be an option for a mechanical hedge trim at some future time.

Saturday, 6th March – to be arranged

Susan mentioned there was an opportunity being offered via the VOSCUR website for a low cost First Aid training course over four successive Tuesday evenings,

Events

- Past events

It was reported that the Lichens, Mosses and Liverworts walk on 6 December had been well attended and fascinating. Justin's report was available on the web site. He had recommended a fuller survey. No liverworts had been found because the habitats examined had not been suitable for them.

The AGM had attracted a reasonable number of participants and those who attended had enjoyed the review of the year's events.

- Next events

Saturday 20th March – FOTH have been invited to take a stall at St Aidan's Community Fair in the Church Hall. The church was aiming to involve as many local people and organisations as possible. It was planned that the Fair would be opened by the MP for St George East. It was acknowledged that there may not be a need for FOTH to maintain a presence for the entire duration of the Fair. It was decided that the Fair would take priority over the Barton Hill History Group exhibition on the same date, for reasons of proximity and relevance.

Funding

- Wild City: The Council had submitted a bid for project funding, and news of the results was awaited.

Networking

Area Green Space Plan – it had been announced that the start of the consultation had been postponed in order to coincide with the Site Allocations consultation. An outline paper of results of last year's consultations was expected to appear in February.

Bristol Parks Forum - one of the main issues for consideration by the Forum would be the senior management changes to Bristol Council's Parks and Leisure management. The Director would be attending the forum meeting to discuss the proposed devolution of powers to neighbourhood partnerships.

Rob passed on a comment via the Parks Forum from someone in Bradford who remarked that the internet forum on the FOTH web site was lively by comparison to their local internet forum.

- BBC Radio Bristol – Ben Prater's Bingo Balls

All the broadcast interviews of FOTH members had been compiled on a single CD and Rob was planning to make a link available on the web site.

- Friends of Netham Park

Susan had attended the inaugural meetings and reported that the Friends Group were seeking to appoint a secretary.

- Christmas Party Thanks to everyone who participated and brought food and drink, most people seemed to have enjoyed it.

Newsletter

Kit was thanked for a brilliant and most enjoyable newsletter, and commended for managing to issue it before Christmas. Jude and Bryan had visited the Hill on Christmas Day. They had experienced lovely weather and calm and beautiful surroundings.

Next Meeting

Thursday, 4th March, 7.15pm Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Rd (next door to the Air Balloon pub).