

NOTE OF MEETING

Wednesday, 1st October, 2008 7.15pm
Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill



Present: Susan (Chair), Rob (WPO), Kit (Memb Sec), Sally (BCC), Julian (BCC) Maureen, Val, Norman, Phyll, Vernon, Anne, Gill, John, Roy, Liz, David, Helen (minutes)

Apologies Claire (BCC), Fabian (CIlr)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Any outstanding items would be addressed during the current agenda.

Sally Oldfield

Rob and Susan announced Sally's departure to take up a new post in Islington. FOTH thanked Sally for forming the group and setting up the initial meetings, and for all her valuable support and hard work in connection with Troopers Hill. Saturday 4 October 2008 would be the fifth anniversary of the first work party (litter picking). Chair presented Sally with a turned wooden vase made from a sycamore tree felled on Troopers Hill during management works, and a certificate, see <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/minutes/vase%20cert.pdf>. Friends expressed their regret at Sally's departure and their very best wishes for her future success and happiness.

Dog Show - Sunday 12th October

Chair had confirmed the availability of a suitable number of volunteers who were asked to attend from 12.00 onwards to put up gazebos and stands, and sell refreshments. Rob outlined the planned parking arrangements (small number of spaces for organisers/stand holders by the two hawthorn trees at Malvern Road entrance) and an exception allowing Julie's car and trailer to be driven on the Field. The police community support officer would attend in case of traffic management requirements. It was suggested that the event might be advertised in the local schools.

Actions: Sally to alert Gavin to review the risk assessment with Julie. Kit to write a Press Release

Liaison with Community Parks Manager

All the gateposts needing replacement had been attended to. A broken slat was reported at the corner of Greendown. There had been no apparent progress with the new replacement fence and gate at Greendown, Rob outlined the forthcoming works to diseased/rotten trees on Troopers Hill Field - see also <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/minutes/min190808.pdf>

Work parties

The evening work party on Thursday 21st August had engaged in bramble cutting. The weather had been too wet to undertake work on Saturday 6th September. The next work party would be on Saturday 4th October, activities to be arranged.

Tai Chi

Chair had submitted an end of project report to the Primary Health Care Trust and had received a positive response. She anticipated there would be a good chance of obtaining funding next year. This summer's classes had attracted new people to the Hill as well as some who were returning after a long interval. A series of ten classes were due to start on Thursday 2 October at Wesley Memorial Church, costing £6 per class.

Events

The Eastwood Farm event on 31st August had been cancelled because of forecast adverse weather.

Avon Valley Walk – Sunday 5th October. It was proposed that the walk would follow the same route as last year, starting at 10.00 in Conham car park.

Owl Prowl - Thursday 16th October 7pm. This event had already attracted 25 bookings. It would be led by Ian McGuire. Several FOTH members reported having heard owls recently

Fungi Foray on Sunday 2 November, to be led by Justin Smith, was fully booked.

A meeting was arranged for Tuesday 21 October at 7.30 to plan next year's events. Rob observed that for reasons of insurance, the presence of a council representative would be needed at any event other than a guided walk.

Suggestions for future events included the following

- A musical event (Music on the Hill)
- strawberry feast
- Bugs and Beasties
- Art competition
- Photography competition (to be launched early in the year and to include other local nature reserves)
- Photography classes (in conjunction with local camera club)
- Scouts event
- Artists trail
- Barbecue

Action Chair to approach appropriate Council officer for in-principle agreement and support for next year's events schedule, once decided.

Parks restructuring

Rob outlined the proposed new organisational arrangements (Area Parks Manager and Community Parks Officers). Julian described the role and responsibilities of C P Officers.

Finance

Friends welcomed Beeses Riverside Bar and Tea Room's kind offer to donate a proportion of the proceeds of their Beer Festival ticket sales (£310) to FOTH. Sally said that once the Nature in the City project had finished, it would be worth seeking grant funding from sources such as Community Arts, Neighbourhood Partnership, and perhaps charging a small fee for events for which no other funding was available. The meeting was reminded about the funding from the former Dundry Park Group (see note of April meeting <http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/minutes/min150408.pdf>).

Newsletter

Feedback on the colour edition and in particular the photographs of Trooping the Hill and Strawberry Feast events was highly complimentary. Kit encouraged contributors to submit articles for the next edition.

Next Meeting

Thursday 13th November 7.15pm Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill, St George.