



**Note of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 13 December 2006
7.15pm Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill**

Present: Vernon, Phyl, Anne, Judith, Liz R, Rachel, Kit, Helen, Val, Roger, Carol, Jen, Ben, Pauline, Alan, Gillian, Maureen, Rob Susan, Roy, Paula

Apologies: Bristol City Council Wildlife & Parks officers

Introduction

The Chair started with a general greeting and introductions and invitation to join in eating Mrs Bellamy's excellent cake.

There followed a presentation in words, pictures and film of FOTH's activities month by month during 2006.

The meeting also watched the video "The Battle of Royate Hill" chronicling events leading to the designation of Royate Hill LNR.

Certain issues were highlighted for discussion, as follows.

Green Flag

Rob gave an update on the progress of the application and probable future timescale. He pointed out that the application, while having some impact on decisions relating to the provision of facilities, would be likely to result in additional Council funding for improvements on Troopers Hill. The meeting acknowledged that designation might not be achieved in the first year and the possible consequence that further improvements might be forthcoming.

Access path to Chimney

Rob summarised the recent e-mail debate about the design and width of the path. FOTH had resisted potential damage to the acid grassland by proposing a finishing point within an area of less valuable grass and a bench near to the chimney. There was concern that the path would most likely be constructed to the width of 1.8 metres, and options for restricting the width at various points were proposed. It was agreed that the most appropriate colour for the new bench would be black, and that the colour of metal for all new benches on the LNR should also be black for reasons of uniformity.

Troopers Hill Field

It was agreed that the gate at the entrance from Troopers Hill field could be removed. There was a debate about the future of the swings which at present detracted from the appearance of the entrance: if it was possible, for Green Flag award purposes, rather than remove them it was proposed that the swings be reinstated, possibly with seats made from recycled materials such as old tyres.

Funding

The meeting scrutinised the accounts produced by Val and the group's asset list. Susan expressed gratitude to the various sources of grant and donations received during the year.

Constitution and Committee Members

The meeting discussed the possible mechanisms for providing a group response to consultation exercises. It was agreed that FOTH should develop a policy statement on which such responses could be based. The Chair would continue to act as spokesperson for FOTH. The constitution would be amended to include provision for such reasonable responses to consultation as are practicable in the time available. There was a vote of confidence in the Chair and Treasurer, who were re-elected. Rob remained Work Party Organiser. Liz R was thanked for her year's service as Secretary. Helen was elected in her stead. Kit was elected Membership Secretary. Alan, Roger and Jenny were elected to the Committee.

Dates of Next Meetings

The next work party would be on 16 December 2006, to free an apple tree from clematis and other undergrowth, and continue removing bramble from broom. The next FOTH general meeting will take place at 19.15 on Tuesday 23 January 2007. There will be a Quiz night at Beese's Tea Rooms on Thursday 15 February.