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**MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF CALLINGTON ROAD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE MEETING HELD**

**TUESDAY 17th OCTOBER 2017 AT TESCO, CALLINGTON ROAD at 6.30pm**

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| PRESENT | Jon Allen (JA), Denis (DS) and Angela Stuckey (AS), Kristian (KJ), Pete (PS) and Mavis Stone (MS), Gary Hopkins (GH), |

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| APOLOGIES | Andrea Warnes (AW), Ruth Galpine (RG), Chris Davies (CD), Doug Bradshaw (DB) |

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| 1 | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.  Matters arising:  **Reserve management**: Wild flower plug planting – this was due in September (we had purchased this out of the last remnants of the S106 monies). JA to chase Becky Belfin to see where this has got to.  Other matters covered below. | **JA** |
| 2 | **COMMITTEE POSITIONS**  AS mentioned at the June meeting JA has moved and is now resident in the Forest of Dean and consequently will step down from the roles of Chairperson and Work Group Organiser.  KJ and Ruth (RG) have very kindly offered to fill the vacant positions, so the Friends can continue as an organisation that promotes the Reserve and acts as an important monitor to make sure reserve management continues to preserve this wildlife jewel that is enjoyed by so many residents. JA has already handed over Friends’ past documentation and effects (reflective tabards, notice board, reserve leaflets etc) after the Family Fun Day and will pass the most recent documentation and files etc to KJ at the end of the meeting.  Positions to be finalised at the next meeting. (January 30th, 6.30pm) |  |
| 3 | **RESERVE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**  **Info panels**  DS note that the info panels Perspex protective covers had weathered and were becoming opaque. At the time of installation spare Perspex covers were supplied and these had been stored at Eastwood Reserve depot. This building has been sold by the Council and it is believed that the covers were moved to the Eastville Park depot. DS is pursuing Richard Fletcher for further information and is awaiting a reply.  **Volunteers Insurance** a posting on our Facebook page from F.of Brislington Brook indicated that the Council could no longer insure volunteers working on parks and reserves. GH informed us that this was unlikely to be true and that there had been some problems when the insurance was put out to tender, but these are likely to be overcome.  **Mowing** – Main meadow has been mown and cuttings baled. Circular path area still needs cutting.  **Seed planting by walking group** to be done Sept/Oct. JA has had no further communication.  **Remembrance tree.** A pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) 10 foot sapling was planted on the Family Fun Day and dedicated to the memory of both Pam Tanner and Frances McCaulder. It was decided to plant it outside the pond area and back at the edge of the woodland to hopefully avoid any unwanted attention. JA has secreted an old watering can in the undergrowth close by and it would be helpful if any Friends passing by could get some water from the pond and soak the ground around the tree. Planted saplings are very vulnerable to drought whilst they are establishing themselves. Thanks.  **Parks Helpline 0117 922 3719 if you see anything that needs doing.** | **DS**  **KJ/RG** |
| 4 | **EVENTS**  **Family Fun Day**  SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST from 11am - 3pm despite a rather gloomy forecast we got away with it again! 50+ attended . Thanks to everyone who helped.  Tony Smith attended to do insect spotting/identification. 3 from RSPB helped with insect sweeps and pond dipping. Badge making machine was as popular as ever. DS and AS ran a bird recognition quiz. PS and MS brought their tortoise family along which was very popular and TW created another bug hotel and younger Friends helped fill it with bamboo, hay etc. It’s been put over in the undergrowth near the main gate to avoid unwanted attention. |  |
| 5 | **BRISTOL PARKS FORUM**  GH attended the meeting on 14th October. Presentations given on Volunteering Strategy and Parks Savings and Income. (More info. here: http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/meetings )  JA gave out summary sheet of proposed income and savings on Parks budget. Still a shortfall of £1.6 million by 2019/20 on the £4.5 million that is proposed to be cut and some of the proposed incomes seem to be rather wishful thinking. |  |
| 6 | **FINANCES/GRANTS**  **Family Fun Day**  £11 spent on hire of badge making machine. About £20 raised in donations.  **Memorial sapling** £54 spent on oak sapling. Thanks to TW for helping to collect the sapling from Chew Valley Trees Ltd.  **Owl tree sculpture**: JA has applied for grants from W H Smiths Community Fund and Tescos Bags of Help Fund. Still waiting to hear if either has been successful.  **Accounts** JA to arrange transfer of signatories, debit cards etc to KJ and RG | **JA** |
| 7 | **INTERESTING SIGHTINGS ON THE RESERVE**   * Member of the public reported an injured deer on the reserve. PS and MS attended but could find no evidence after a long search into the furthest depths! |  |
| 9 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The date of the next meeting **is Tuesday 30th January 2018 at** 6.30pm at Tesco Brislington, Callington Road. |  |
| 10 | **AOB**  DS presented flowers from the Friends to AW in recognition and thanks for her past services as Secretary and Treasurer of FoCRLNR and also a bottle of Talisker whiskey to JA for his time as Chair and Work Group Organiser. The whiskey was gratefully received and will help while away some of the winter evenings in the Forest!  Moscow State Circus notices have appeared on the Callington Road Railings – to be removed  JA passed most recent documentation to KJ and will arrange to forward all relevant emails and computer files relating to FoCRLNR in the next few days.  Also logon details for the website. | **JA** |

The meeting closed approx 7.30pm.

**CIRCULATION:** ALL MEMBERS

Hard copies to: Ian, Peter and Mavis