****

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

**TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2016 AT TESCO, CALLINGTON ROAD at 6.30pm**

**AGM Meeting**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRESENT | Jon Allen (JA), Andrea Warnes (AW), Doug Bradshaw (DB), Denis Stuckey (DS), Angela Stuckey (AS), |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| APOLOGIES | Tim Warnes (TW), Ruth Gilliam (RG) Frances and Ian McCalder (FM)(IM), Pete (PS) and Mavis Stone (MS), Pam Tanner (PT), Tony Smith (TS) |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2016 were approved subject to one amendment pointed out by DS. The tree that fell during storms was a STANDARD poplar, not a black poplar. |  |
| 2 | **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**  JA and AW agreed to continue their roles and were re-elected.  DB said he was happy to take on any roles that needed regarding maintenance and will help JA with this on the Reserve, undertaking tools training available (see AOB). |  |
| 3 | **RESERVE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**  JA was contacted by Tim Brandon who is the new tree officer for the Council with regard to the tree near the green lane gate that fell in the storms.  He pointed out that the tree next to the one that fell was also looking dangerous and needs attention. He will organise a bat survey before applying for a tree felling order to remove the tree. DS said he believed there to be no bats nesting on the Reserve. The 2 previous Ecological Surveys showed that whilst 6 species of bats were seen to be flying along the green lane area of the Reserve, none were found to actually nest there.  Tim also noticed from the Management Plan on the notice boards that there is supposed to be an annual tree inspection, although with recent cuts at the Council this is highly unlikely. He will walk around the Reserve and formulate a plan.  Just a reminder of the number to ring if you need to report anything on the Reserve:  **Parks Helpline 0117 922 3719** |  |
| 4 | **EVENTS**  **Litter Pick**  This was held on Sunday 13 March, 11am - 3pm  10 adults and 2 children attended. 12 bags of litter were collected. Discarded fence posts from recent works were removed and a lot of old metal was cleared too.  **Callington Road Hospital Spring Fair**  JA and AW attended this on 20th April from 1.30pm - 4pm. JA set up a stand to exhibit there. Some staff were unaware of the Reserve and interested to discover it. Tony Smith ran a walk through the grounds and collected and identified bugs.  **Family Fun Day**  Bristol Natural History Consortium doesn't have the funding to run this event this year, but JA has secured the RSPB to run the event for us. At a recent Parks Forum meeting, JA met Charlie Crump from the RSPB. She did a presentation explaining that Aldi had financed schools liaison officers to go into schools and educate children about natural history. JA approached her and discussed our event. She said they could run the event for us and it's hoped they'll fund it and bring volunteers, as did BNHC. AW and JA will meet with her to discuss their input and plan the day. | **JA/**  **AW** |
| 5 | **KNOWLE and BRISLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**  JA doesn't attend these meetings anymore, but instead is on the Environmental Sub-Group for Knowle NP which is more relevant.  This group will receive bids for funding green space improvements and will advise the NPs on allocating funds. |  |
| 6 | **s.106 Monies**  The following has been completed:   * Path maintenance – removal of accumulated soil and grass/weeds encroaching onto path. * Removal of the fence (approx. 60m) along the east side of the access track into the Upper Slopes. * Planting of additional hazel whips. These are planted to the far side of the fir trees in the Upper Slopes area. * Planting up of pond. More Flag Irises and Loosestrife have been planted and another plant that is as yet unidentified. We will try to ensure that this area of planting is protected on the Family Fun Nature Day. Also, signs asking for dogs not to go into the pond will be re-made and put up to warn of Blue Algae that is currently causing a problem for dogs and is found in static water.   Still to do   * Wildflower plug planting in The Field. Park Works will help with this - they are paid for this service. Work is scheduled for the end of the Summer. After discussion it was agreed that JA will contact Becky Belfin and ask if this can be put back to the Spring, after the Family Fun Day and the late hay cut which could interfere with planting. * Interpretation Board. This is nearing completion and has been done in-house by the Council. It shows information on the meadow and will be placed near the pond looking across the meadow. DS proof-read it and mentioned that it should maybe have more information about Fungi on it as we have many species there as it is an undisturbed habitat. JA will ask if any addition can be made at this stage. DB mentioned the possibility of scan QR codes on the interpretation panels, as he'd seen these to work well at Westonbirt. These are definitely something we should consider in the future for providing further information about the reserve. * Bench. This is ongoing, but no timescale has been given. Becky is progressing with the landscapes team. * An extra litter bin is to be placed at the cross roads on the Reserve. | **AW**  **JA**  **JA** |
| 8 | **FINANCES/GRANTS**  Regarding Paula Spiers and her email regarding a £5,000.00 fund available to Local Nature Reserves, it was felt that we didn't need to apply for this given the money we have available from the s.106.  Denise at Tesco has contacted us regarding the Tesco Bags for Help initiative. JA explained that you could apply for grants of either £8k, £10k, or £12k and these sums felt like a large amount for us. However, on discussion it was suggested that we could bid for this money to go towards completing another ecological survey as one hasn't been done for a few years and they cost thousands of pounds for a professional detailed survey and it would be good to see if the Reserve was benefiting an increase in wildlife. JA/AW to further discuss with Denise. | **JA/**  **AW** |
| 9 | **INTERESTING SIGHTINGS ON THE RESERVE**  PT reported a regular roe deer doe visiting her neighbour's garden during daylight hours for the past couple of months. She also feeds 3 foxes who have had a lot of cubs. One vixen is very small, but she stays by Pam's car whilst she talks to her and has the name Foxella!  Tony Smith reported finding an unusual but tiny Rove Beetle called Callicera Obscura at the Callington Road Hospital Spring Fair.  JA has seen a fox in daylight on the reserve on two occasions.  Badgers have been reported at the hospital and are digging under the foundations of one of the buildings.  1 resident crow has been spotted. Previously 2, but only 1 seen recently.  AW noted that a pair of jays are very active at the moment and may have young on the nest.  AW's neighbours are feeding a fox and badger who come to their garden every night. The badger even pushing the back door one evening when his supper was late! |  |
| 11 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The date of the next meeting **is Tuesday 18 October 2016 at** 6.30pm at Tesco Brislington, Callington Road. |  |
| 10 | **AOB**  **Insect Boxes**  NR from the Hospital says they have some insect homes made at their recent spring fair available to go up on the reserve and were we happy for them to do this or did we want to do it? It was decided that we were happy for them to go ahead and do this, but to let AW and JA know when so that we could go along too and see where the boxes were being placed. AW to contact NR.  **Hospital Lights**  JA met Lee Sollis the hospital Site Maintenance Manager and they walked the site and noted three offending lights that flood the Upper Slopes. He was to arrange for contractors to sort the lights out, but to date, nothing has been done! JA is continuing to chase.  **Dark Sky Accreditation**  JA is still finding out about this.  **Bins**  Doug has got his bins!!! There are now 11 extra bins at every junction in the lanes around the back of Tesco and the housing estate. Well done Doug!  **Tools Training**  This is available from Bristol City Council and DB hopes to attend. JA to book through Tom Penn.  **Japanese Knotweed**  AS asked whether there was an update on the knotweed to the rear of a property in Queens Road. JA had delivered meeting minutes to the property but has heard nothing back. The Council should be dealing with this so will need chasing. The last heard was that they had sprayed the area, but we need to know whether this is ongoing or has been left. JA to check with the Council.  **Tabards**  JA asked whether there were any objections to purchasing 15 yellow tabards for volunteers to wear when doing litter picks etc. This was authorised by the Committee. They are £1 each and when purchased, JA will look into getting them printed with who we are. | **AW**  **JA**  **JA**  **JA**  **JA**  **JA** |

The meeting closed approx 8pm.

**CIRCULATION:** ALL MEMBERS

Hard copies to: Frances and Ian Peter and Mavis Pam Tanner