**Friends of Callington Road Local Nature Reserve
Meeting 9th March 2021**

**Attendees:** Ruth Galpine, Kristan Johnstone (KJ), Doug Bradshaw, Mabel Hahner, Babs & Andy Field, Ezra & Kat, Andrew Varney, Cllr Jos Clark, Terry Jones, Mary Churchill, Jackie Ames-Farrow
**Apologies:** Denis & Angela Stuckey, Phil Earis, Emma & Mike MacNair

1. **Welcome**

We welcomed a lot of new faces this evening which was great. Thanks everyone for joining our first ‘virtual’ Friends group meeting!

1. **Brief history**
Ruth shared a very brief history of the Reserve and the Friends group. More detailed info on the Reserve is contained within leaflets which Ruth & KJ have at their house.
**Action:** Ruth / KJ to deliver leaflets to Jackie and Andrew, and anyone else who would like one.
We discussed the importance of the “Local” designation and how the primary purpose of the Friends group is to protect the Reserve, the wildlife and flora within it, and to maintain this status in order to protect from future development.

Andy shared his recollection of when the main meadow was a pitch and putt golf course.
We discussed wildlife sightings within the Reserve including the pond.
**Action:** Mabel to look into us having a species sightings list on the website. We could also encourage people to share sightings on the Facebook group.
Cllr Clark and Andrew shared details of a wildlife corridor that includes dewponds in Stockwood Open Space and Knowle Golf Course.
**Action:** Cllr Clark to speak to Becky Belfin (conservationist) at Bristol City Council about surveying the wildlife in our pond and potentially re-stocking it if needed.

1. **Access requests**
	1. **Gate on Talbot Road** – we discussed the objections to opening up this gate. These are that this end of the Reserve is undisturbed and is likely where the wildlife is most concentrated and has their homes. Also that when it was open in the past it encouraged use of the Reserve as a cut-through including for motorbikes which also disturbed the wildlife.
	**Action:** We all agreed that this will not be pursued.
	2. **‘Green fence’ along Callington Road** – we discussed the litter trap that this fence enables, and whether its removal would make the area more natural and litter-free. Concerns around safety and security, broken storm drains and an electrical conductor were discussed.
	**Action:** Cllr Clark to follow up with contacts at the Council over ownership and possibilities for removal and/or access, also addressing the concerns raised. Additionally, she is discussing the possibility of a hedge at the top of the embankment, screening traffic and pollution.
2. **Forthcoming events**

Events are currently not possible within current Government Covid restrictions. We will monitor the guidance and as soon as we are able to, will look to organize a liter pick, and also the Summer Nature Day.
**Action:** All to think about what activities they would like to see at the Summer Nature Day.

1. **AOB**
Babs and Andy asked about Japanese Knotweed in the Reserve. We think there might be some in the far corner of the Upper Slopes. Mary shared details of some on Callington Road, Brislington Brook and a small part of Nightingale Valley. If we do discover any in the Reserve, we are to notify Bristol City Council.

Date of next meeting not yet set.

**Action:** Ruth to add Andrew to the email group list.