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

**TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017 AT TESCO, CALLINGTON ROAD at 6.30pm**

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| PRESENT | Jon Allen (JA), Doug Bradshaw (DB), Denis (DS) and Angela Stuckey (AS), Kristian (KJ), Pete (PS) and Mavis Stone (MS), Ian McCalder (IM), |

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

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| 1 | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.  Matters arising:  **Reserve management**: Mowing had once again taken out some whips planted by Friends just inside the gate to the Upper Slopes. JA to inform Tom Penn.  Other matters covered below. | **JA** |
| 2 | **COMMITTEE POSITIONS**  As announced at the March meeting, AW has now stepped down from her positions as Secretary and Treasurer due to commitments with Bristol Fostering Group. The Friends pass on their thanks for all her hard work and hope she will continue to support future events.  JA is in the process of selling and moving away (possibly in August) and will support the Family Day in August, but will step down from the roles of Chairperson and Work Group Organiser at the October meeting.  DB agreed to fill in for Andrea until the next meeting, but we do need to find some willing volunteers to take up the vacant posts 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.  KJ will give some thought to this and agreed to store the Friends documentation and effects if the group has to go into hibernation. |  |
| 3 | **RESERVE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**  **Mowing** has been timely with paths mowed around the perimeters.  **Bin emptying** was a bit haphazard in April/May, but is better now.  **Byelaws** - Hopefully in place by March. Main importance to us is there will be no camping on the Reserve which will support us if and when this may happen in future.  **Tawny owls nesting box** well hidden by leaf growth. Will not disturb until Autumn to see if it’s been used.  **Seed planting by walking group** to be done Sept/Oct in circular path area. JA to liaise.  **Remembrance tree.** DS had made enquiries with Chew Valley Trees. A pedunculate oak (Quercus robur) would cost £54 for and 8 to 10 foot sapling. Meeting agreed to finance this from funds and plant inside pond fence area making watering easier.  Also agreed to dedicate the tree to the memory of both Pam Tanner and Frances McCaulder. JA to arrange collection and planting.  **Parks Helpline 0117 922 3719 if you see anything that needs doing.** | **JA**  **JA** |
| 4 | **EVENTS**  **Callington Road Hospital Spring Fair**  23rd May. PS, MS and JA attended. Star of the show was Pete and Mavis’s ‘Emma’ the tortoise plus three young ones – they got a lot of interest. JA took our display board and leaflets, plus a bird identification quiz.  **Family Fun Day**  Date set for SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST from 11am - 3pm.  Tony Smith attending to do insect spotting/identification.  Charlie Crump for RSPB attending plus Avon Wildlife?  JA contacted Tom Penn about not cutting meadow. Hopefully shouldn’t be cut, but it is with a contractor.  Badge making machine booked.  RG and KJ to investigate fundraising and prize donation.  PS & MS, DS & AS to supervise bird recognition quiz, maybe with prizes.  **Fungi Foray**  JA to enquire if a volunteer at Tyntesfield who is cataloguing the estate could be persuaded to do a foray for us. | **TS**  **KJ**  **PS/MS/DS/AS**  **JA** |
| 5 | **BRISTOL PARKS FORUM**  No further news on Parks budget at the March forum meeting. Parks Forum Committee drafted a very strongly worded letter to the Councillor responsible for Parks, who has failed to attend the last two meetings to explain the Councils plans. Next meeting is this Saturday 24th June at Redcatch Community Centre – should be interesting! JA attending and will report back. | **JA** |
| 6 | **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**  Knowle and Brislington Neighbourhood Partnerships finances been severely pruned and no support available from the Council so both are attempting to continue on a voluntary basis. Environmental Sub Group has disbanded. |  |
| 7 | **FINANCES/GRANTS**  **Wild flower plug planting** due in September.  **Owl tree sculpture**: JA has applied for grants from W H Smiths Community Fund and Tescos Bags of Help Fund. Tom Penn has given approval from BCC but stated that tree was felled because of rot. Andy O’Neil (wood sculptor) had said he could remove rotten wood and just use sound wood for owl figure. Should hear in the Autumn if either application has been successful. |  |
| 8 | **INTERESTING SIGHTINGS ON THE RESERVE**   * Owls have been calling at night in April/May * Swifts flying above the reserve in greater numbers than last year. * Heron still fishing the pond. * No sightings of the deer recently. Have they moved on? (Update: No JA saw one for the first time by the circular path on Monday 19th pm) |  |
| 9 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The date of the next meeting **is Tuesday 17th October at** 6.30pm at Tesco Brislington, Callington Road.  All were deeply saddened by the passing of Friends Member Frances McCaulder who with Ian was a big supporter of the Reserve. DA, AS and JA attended the funeral to represent the Friends.  DS and AS had made enquiries regarding a memorial tree to be planted on the Reserve in memory of Pam Tanner and the meeting agreed that this should also be dedicated to Frances as well.  Dark Sky Accreditation. JA has been in contact with Bristol Astronomical Society who referred us to Friends of Avon Gorge and Downs, Victoria Park Action Group and Friends of Troopers Hill who have all gained accreditation. | **JA** |
| 10 | **AOB**  All were deeply saddened by the passing of Friends Member Frances McCaulder who with Ian was a big supporter of the Reserve. DA, AS and JA attended the funeral to represent the Friends.  DS and AS had made enquiries regarding a memorial tree to be planted on the Reserve in memory of Pam Tanner and the meeting agreed that this should also be dedicated to Frances as well.  Dark Sky Accreditation. JA has been in contact with Bristol Astronomical Society who referred us to Friends of Avon Gorge and Downs, Victoria Park Action Group and Friends of Troopers Hill who have all gained accreditation. |  |

The meeting closed approx 8pm.

**CIRCULATION:** ALL MEMBERS

Hard copies to: Ian, Peter and Mavis