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

**TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2017 AT TESCO, CALLINGTON ROAD at 6.30pm**

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| PRESENT | Jon Allen (JA), Andrea Warnes (AW), Doug Bradshaw (DB), Denis Stuckey (DS), Angela Stuckey (AS), Ruth Gilliam (RGil), Tony Smith (TS), Ruth Galpine (RG), Kristan (KJ) |

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| APOLOGIES | Tim Warnes (TW) Frances and Ian McCalder (FM)(IM), Pete (PS) and Mavis Stone (MS) Adele Berkin (AB), |

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| 1 | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.  It was noted that the field and path verge cutting to the reserve was severe as a machine was used and at least 20 trees were lost. More trees were damaged. JA to relay this to Tom Penn (BCC Operations Coordinator, South Bristol) | **JA** |
| 2 | **RESERVE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**  JA said mowing was much better last year based on previous years. All services before were leased out, but last year BCC Parks took it on again.  During Oct/Nov a Poplar was felled. It was suggested by Nicola Ramsden from the Hospital that maybe this can be carved. JA has spoken with Andy a tree sculptor who has completed works in Redcatch Park and he charges £350 per day for his services. He has looked at the stump to be carved and estimated that it will take a day to carve. JA will put together something to look at grants and funding for this. Maybe Tesco Bags for Life? Art in the Community or private funding? RG and KJ suggested expanding our reach for funding through maybe business sponsorship, raffles, scratch card games (subject to licensing)? They are happy to explore these possibilities.  Bird boxes. Occupational Therapy at Callington Road Hospital made some bird boxes and JA and DB put some up in Nov/Dec. Nicola Ramsden at the Hospital said they can make some more and, possibly, some bat boxes in the future.  Bench. JA received an email from Nicola Ramsden saying how grateful they were that the bench has been put in and recently one service user went to the Reserve for the 1st time as there was somewhere to sit.  Tawny owls. Sarah Woodley from Wootton Park emailed. She has an allotment at Talbot Road and they have lots of rats there. As Tawny owls eat rats she asked whether she could fund and install an owl nesting box at the allotment park of the Reserve. She bought an RSPB approved box which JA and DB put up.  Feb/March. Brian McGann contacted JA about doing a guided tour of the reserve for service users re, mental health support. He'd like to come back in September and plant some wild flower seeds with the service users which they'd fund. JA said he'd speak to Becky Belfin who said yes, but to scarify the ground first. She recommended a seed supplier with a good germination rate. DS recommended planting the Brislington side of the green lane. JA will tell him to go ahead and will liase on the day.  Power tool course. JA and DB are registered for this, but there seems little chance of it running at the moment with budget cuts imposed on the council.  Japanese Knotweed. AS asked it's still there? JA saw neighbour and she said yes, but her husband has been chasing the Council and it was being sprayed. TS advised that this be watched closely as he's heard of cases in woodland managed by the Woodland Trust where unsupervised contractors have ruined areas treated.  **Parks Helpline 0117 922 3719** | **JA/RG/**  **KJ**  **JA** |
| 3 | **EVENTS**  **Bramble Bash**  This took place in November. 6 adults, 5 children and 1 dog attended! Cleared the hazel coppice and redid an area we cleared 2 years ago.  **Litter Pick**  This was held in February 14 adults, 5 children and 1 dog attended. 12 bags of litter were picked and removed by the Council.  **Bye laws**  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.  **Callington Road Hospital Spring Fair**  23rd May. We've been invited to go along. JA will go with our display board and leaflets.  **Family Fun Day**  Date was set for this SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST from 1pm-3pm. TS confirmed that he is available and will come along. JA will contact Tom Penn re, cutting of meadow and book badge making machine.  Fundraising at this event was suggested by RG and KJ - cake stall? Sweets? Raffle Prizes? They will investigate.  AW liaise with Tesco.  AS asked about possibility of a Fungi Foray? Something to be considered. | **JA**  **RG/KJ**  **AW** |
| 4 | **BRISTOL PARKS FORUM**  At previous Parks Forum meeting in October we were told Bristol City Council Parks budget would be cut by 25% by 2020. However in the January Parks Forum we were told that in the light of the underfunding deficit the budget would be cut to zero by 2020 and Parks would become self funding. This to be done in stages: 2017/18 - £425,000 reduction 2018/19 - £632.000 reduction 2019/20 - £2,800,000 reduction bringing spending on parks down to zero.  A Parks Development Team of 4 has been formed from redeployed Council Officers (including Becky Belfin former BCC Nature Conservation Officer who has been so helpful to us) to assess what money can be generated form parks (eg charging for events/hire)  It seems very doubtful that this will raise the current approximately £4,000,000 per annum budget being spent to keep our parks, local nature reserves and green spaces up to their present standard. We await future developments with interest! |  |
| 6 | **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**  Knowle and Brislington Neighbourhood Partnerships finances have stopped - there is no money available now. £63k was due in following development at Salcombe Road but the Council have taken that now calling it "Capital Development Money". Environmental Sub Group will keep going until the Council say no. |  |
| 7 | **s.106 Monies**  Bench has been installed.  Plug planting was due this spring but Becky Belfin said this will probably be in September now - she'll keep an eye on the situation.  A litter bin was asked for at the x-roads on the Reserve, but there wasn't enough money left for this.  AS asked whether this money was safe and it was confirmed that it was. |  |
|  | **FINANCES/GRANTS**  JA looked at possibility of funding for the tree sculpture similar to "Arts in the Park" type funding. RG suggested sponsorship by local business support and KJ mentioned maybe garden centres - they will approach some businesses and report back. | **RG/KJ** |
| 9 | **INTERESTING SIGHTINGS ON THE RESERVE**   * Heron has been fishing on the pond and local gardens! * The woodpecker has been in RG's garden. * Mistle Thrush has been seen. * Foxes are on the Reserve and neighbouring gardens. All look healthy. * Jays are breeding and more have been seen this year, based on previous years. |  |
| 10 | **AOB**  All were deeply saddened by the passing of Friends Member Pam Tanner who was such a big part of the Reserve. RGil suggested planting a tree on the Reserve in memory of Pam and all were in agreement. DS and AS will look at suitable trees and prices and possibility of asking for donations from residents of Queens Road who knew Pam. Chew Valley Trees supply good quality trees and can advise on best species and planting aspects etc.  RGil said that a lot of trees originally put in are now large and the plastic protection around them needs cutting. JA said that this was done to the some of the trees at our last Bramble Bash and more can be done at the next event.  Facebook page is working well with 106 members so far and growing!  AS asked where we were with Dark Sky Accreditation. JA said this hadn't been applied for yet, but maybe we can ask someone to come and look late spring.  RG mentioned Instagram and tagging photographs taken on the Reserve. She will look into this and report back.  Sadly, JA announced that he will be moving so will be stepping down as Chair, but will continue for another year.  AW is also resigning as Secretary. If anyone is interested in filling these roles, please shout or the Friends of the Reserve will have to be shelved until a further committee is found. | **DS/AS**  **JA**  **RG**  **All** |
| 11 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The date of the next meeting **is Tuesday 13th June at** 6.30pm at Tesco Brislington, Callington Road. AW to book meeting room. | **AW** |

The meeting closed approx 8pm.

**CIRCULATION:** ALL MEMBERS

Hard copies to: Frances and Ian Peter and Mavis