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

**TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2-16 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), Frances and Ian McCalder (FM)(IM), Pete (PS) and Mavis Stone (MS), Pam Tanner (PT) |

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| APOLOGIES | Tim Warnes (TW), Ruth Gilliam (RG) |

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| 1 | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**  The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th October 2015 were read and updates given:  JA still to action sign for dogs on leads at upper slopes entrance.  Minutes were approved. | **JA** |
| 2 | **CONSTITUTION**  One of our meetings has to be an AGM in order to re-elect members etc. It was proposed and agreed that our next meeting be our AGM. |  |
| 3 | **RESERVE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**  JA met with Tom Penn (BCC, Client and Operations Manager for South Bristol) He provided him with Mark Gundry's Management Plan together with the list of extras below and they discussed the management of the reserve:  **Annually**  **July**   * Strim and cut back Green Lane (well used public right of way) * Strim back by 1 metre all other tarmac paths (pond path and circular path) * Mow path around perimeter of main meadow and also mow path diagonally from Wooton Park entrance to Imperial Walk entrance. (Done for first time this year for Friend of CRLNF Family Fun Day, but also popular with dog walkers)   **August**   * Haycut for main meadow and upper slopes meadows (see Becky Belfin hay cut plan)   **November**   * Leaf blow Green Lane (public right of way)   **Every 3 years (next due 2016)**   * Flail back all perimeter areas around main meadow and Upper Slopes meadows to prevent invasion of scrub   **Repairs needed**   * Manhole cover to silt trap by pond needs resetting (and silt trap cleaned out??) * Wooton Park entrance gate - support post needs realigning. * Vehicle access gate to Upper Slopes – support post needs resetting   Sadly, during February's Storm Imogen one of the Black Poplars on the pathway snapped. JA notified the Council and they responded very quickly to cut and remove the tree blocking the path.  If anyone needs to report anything such as a fallen tree, bins full etc the number to ring is:  **Parks Helpline 0117 922 3719** |  |
| 4 | **EVENTS**  **Bramble Bash**  This took place in November and around 4 large dumpy bags were filled and removed.  **Litter Pick**  Sunday 13 March, 11am - 3pm  JA has requested equipment needed from the Council.  Please try to attend on the day and spread the word!  **Callington Road Hospital Open Day**  We have received an invitation to attend the open day and either exhibit or just visit. It is on 20th April from 1.30pm - 4pm. There are many useful exhibitors, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Bat Group to name a few.  **Family Fun Day**  Nothing has been heard this year as to whether funding is available to run the outreach events as part of the Festival of Nature. AW to make contact with Lucy Gaze at Bristol Natural History Consortium to see what the position is. | **ALL**  **JA/AW**  **AW** |
| 5 | **BYELAWS**  These have been widely publicised in the press recently, but more discussion is needed by the Department of Cultural and Leisure Affairs before anything is firmly decided upon. It will probably be March before anything happens. There was an online survey to put forward views and JA completed this on FoCRLNR's behalf. |  |
| 6 | **NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS**  JA now attending the Environmental Subgroup meetings which are more relevant to the Reserve and is attending the next meeting tomorrow evening, 17 February. |  |
| 7 | **s.106 Monies**  JA chased Becky Belfin (BCC Nature Conservation Officer) to establish how much was available and what we could do with it. A meeting was held on 22nd December 2015 between JA, Becky and Jo McKenna of Parks Works, a self-funding group helping the long term unemployed get back into a work pattern by working in the community. It is proposed that Parks Works undertake some of the maintenance and clearing works on the Reserve. The following was proposed towards utilising remaining monies:  1) Path maintenance – removal of accumulated soil and grass/weeds encroaching onto path.  This is approx. 600m if include all surfaced paths.  2) Removal of the fence (approx. 60m) along the east side of the access track into the Upper Slopes. (This work has now started)  3) Wildflower plug planting in The Field.  4) Clearance of bramble and tall herb from hazel planting areas - area outlined on attached map, about 500 sqm, but not all solid bramble (­­ area along hospital boundary)  5) Planting of additional hazel whips.  6) Planting up of pond.  In addition Becky is insistent that we have a simple bench installed by the pond. We are the only LNR without any seating and there have been requests from members of the public and the Hospital OT department. The feeling of the meeting was that this would attract vandalism/drinking etc, but provided the bench is easily removable if this does prove a problem and that the area is monitored and incidents recorded, then this would be trialled. | **JA** |
| 8 | **FINANCES/GRANTS**  JA received an email from Paula Spiers regarding a £5,000.00 fund available to Local Nature Reserves which you have to bid for. This can't be used for site maintenance, but can be used to publicise the reserve, go towards setting up a website, interpretation panels, signage etc.  It was proposed that we bid for funding towards an interpretation panel in the meadow to show why it is left to grow and only cut once a year.  DS advised that Claire Challice (formerly Dandy Creative, now Inkwood Design) designed our existing boards, so JA will contact her for a quote for another board. | **JA** |
| 9 | **INTERESTING SIGHTINGS ON THE RESERVE**   * Primroses and cowslips were out on the Reserve in December which is very early. * The woodpecker has been heard and it's thought that there are now 2 woodpeckers as one has been seen flying whilst the pecking could still be heard. |  |
| 10 | **AOB**  JA met with Ruth Coleman who is going to draw up a leaflet showing a walk around the Reserve. They walked around the Reserve together and she will draft a leaflet for the Committee to see.  **Hospital Lights**  JA has again had to contact the hospital! The lights shining along the green lane have got worse, having previously been sorted after many requests. JA is meeting the Site Maintenance Manager tomorrow at 6pm to discuss.  **Dark Sky Accreditation**  An application can be made to see if we are eligible for dark sky accreditation. A visit is made and if certain stars are visible you can get accreditation. AW advised that Troopers Hill now have accreditation and have held star gazing events recently.  **Tesco Funding**  JA will apply to Tesco for funding as part of their payback to communities following charges for carrier bags. Funding for yellow vests is sought as it would be good to wear these at events to authenticate the Friends group and make us more visible. |  |
| 11 | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  The date of the next meeting **is Tuesday 7th June 2016 at** 6.30pm at Tesco Brislington, Callington Road and it will be our AGM. |  |

The meeting closed approx 8pm.

**CIRCULATION:** ALL MEMBERS

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