

# FOCRLNR Meeting Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2019

## Minutes

**Attendees:** Kristan Johnstone (KJ), Denis Stuckey (DS), Angela Stuckey (AS), Marilyn Bentham (MB)

**Apologies:** Philip Earis (PE), Jo Lewis (JL), Ruth Galpine (RG), Doug Bradshaw (DB), Pete Stone (PS), Mavis Stone (MS), Andy Field (AF), Babs Field (BF), Mabel Hahner (MH)

### **Actions in bold**

<p>1. Minutes &amp; Actions from last meeting</p> <p>KJ ran through the minutes and actions from the last meeting.</p>	KJ
<p>2. Owl Reinstated</p> <p>The owl was reinstated on reinforced foundations on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>, in time for the Nature Fun Day. It was also given a coat of oil to prepare it for the autumn and winter months so it is looking good and hopefully can now enjoy a permanent residency in the reserve.</p> <p>JustGiving: The £300 raised via JustGiving for the owl had to be paid directly in to Ruth's account. Ruth therefore used the money to pay for the costs of the Owl repair directly (£228), with the remaining £72 credited to the FOCRLNR account. We have the invoices/receipts on file.</p>	KJ
<p>3. Bristol Parks Forum updates</p> <p><b>Parks Funding</b> The total funding is just over £2m which includes the Nesta Rethinking Parks grant for setting up the Parks Foundation and the Future Parks grant that was recently announced.</p> <p>While this is all good news, much of it is looking at long-term funding for parks and the rest is for specific projects so it does not directly increase the budget available for day-to-day maintenance of our parks.</p> <p><b>Volunteers</b> There is a site called Can Do Bristol where you can post about your group and events, and be matched with volunteers looking to help with aligned projects. Ruth has set us up an account and will post the details of our Litter Picks and Bramble Bash when we have them. Similarly, we have joined the Bristol Nature Network on Facebook which is a community of young "nature-minded" people in Bristol looking to volunteer and help out. We will post our event details there as well.</p> <p><b>BPF Vision</b> We discussed the work of BPF and in particular the Vision that the Forum has compiled. <b><i>KJ agreed to share the latest version with the group so everyone is up to speed.</i></b></p>	KJ

<p>The group is then welcome to suggest any projects they feel may be eligible for funding, bearing in mind general maintenance will not be covered by the currently available funding grants.</p>	
<p>4. Events &amp; Reserve Maintenance</p> <p>The Nature Fun Day went ahead on September 14<sup>th</sup>. After a slow start we had a good turnout, with the bulk of activity taking place around the pond which was at a good level with plenty of life in and around it. Pete and Mavis and their tortoises were again a hit and proved very popular. We also had the badge-making machine, colouring in and animal identification competitions. Ruth had arranged for a foraging challenge as well which was effective and proved popular while keeping the kids busy. So all in all a successful event once again.</p> <p>To allow for advanced planning and to secure personnel and assets for events in the future we decided to set the dates for 2020 events. The dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bramble Bash, Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am-1pm</li> <li>- Spring Litter Pick, Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am-1pm</li> <li>- Nature Fun Day, Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1pm-4pm</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the group discussed the potential to introduce other fixtures for groups to explore the various nature within the reserve. These include forages, batwalks, insect identification, fungi identification etc. We will make a list of possible events and contact both the council (Becky Belfin) and other contacts to assess feasibility and any associated costs to share with the group.</p> <p>Denis and Angela commented on the overgrowing bramble on the perimeter with Callington Road. <b><i>KJ will check with Tom Penn when maintenance is scheduled</i></b>, as the responsibility for that upkeep sits with the council.</p> <p><b><i>KJ will speak to Tom Penn regarding a lock for the gate heading to the Upper Slopes</i></b>, as the gate has been opened on a few occasions over recent weeks – potentially for the council to access to cut the paths.</p>	<p>Group</p>
<p>5. Interesting sightings on the Reserve</p> <p>We were fortunate to have a couple of experienced wildlife enthusiasts at the Nature Fun Day, so we were able to identify the following in the pond and surrounding areas of the reserve:</p> <p>Red Admiral butterfly  Speckled Wood butterfly  Meadow Brown butterfly  Male &amp; female Common Darter dragonflies  Male &amp; female Southern Hawker dragonflies  Male Broadbodied Chaser dragonfly  Blue Tailed damselfly  Crane fly</p>	<p>Group</p>

<p>Hover fly  Honey bee  Green shield bug  Tree bumblebee  White tailed bumblebee  Lesser Waterboatman  Greater Waterboatman  Pond skater  Carrion crow</p>	
<p>6. AOB</p> <p>Finances: We currently have a balance of £360. £300 is remaining from the Tesco Bags for Life and £72 remaining from the JustGiving fundraising. £12 was spent for the hire of the badge machine for the Nature Fun Day.</p>	<p>Group</p>
<p>7. Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2019, 6.30pm – 8pm, Tescos Brislington</p>	<p>Group</p>