

**THREE BROOKS NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on 25 April 2007 at the Brook Way Activity Centre, Bradley Stoke**

**Present:**

Members

Hannah Watts (Chair)

Rachael Ann

David Baker (Ordinary Member)

Susan Boyers

Rachel Callow

Steven Callow (Treasurer)

Emma Creasey (Secretary)

Robin Jones

Dave Matthews

Sara Messenger (Ordinary Member)

John Morris

Ceri Pritchard

Rob Williams

Non-members

Mike Lowe

**In attendance:**

Jenny Darwin, BTCV

Paul Humphreys, BTCV

**Apologies received from:** Dave Baker and Sarah Barker (Bradley Stoke Community School), Martin Collier.

**Minutes of the last meeting (11 October 2006)**

The minutes were approved.

**Matters arising**

*The newt ponds* are now being formally monitored. The group expressed an interest in accompanying the newt "monitor" on his visits. **Action: John.** *Followup; the expert's view is that the ponds are currently so muddy that nothing can be seen! When/if the water clears we will revisit this.*

*Tool store* - problems with the school have delayed this further. The school had asked if 3BNCG could share the container with another group but members decided against this. John to continue to take this forward and may consider approaching the leisure centre. **Action: John.**

*Fencing by Savage's Wood* - John is looking into getting a gate into the wood set up next to the skate park, perhaps getting the kids involved in making it. The existing black plastic kissing gate at the entrance to the woods, which was recently damaged by a falling tree, will be replaced by a wooden one to be made by the NVQ group.

*Seating* - woodland timber is to be extracted using a heavy horse and used to make seating.

### **Secretary's report**

The report was noted and the following additional comments made:

- Robin had negotiated a 50% discount on the cost of hosting the website, bringing the total cost to £75 for two years. The group thanked Robin for his work on this.
- 3BNCG had won a pub quiz event run for local conservation groups.

### **Treasurer's report**

The group had £1,158 in the bank but most of this was committed.

The recently submitted Breathing Places grant application requested £10,000 for upgrading reserve paths and providing signage/orienteering aids.

### **Election of officers**

The existing Committee was re-elected unanimously.

### **Work planning**

#### Workdays

The group agreed the following workdays for the next 8 months:

June - Stream clearing

July - Hay cut by Webb's Wood

August - Hay cut by newt ponds/Ellicks Close bridge

September - Marsh irrigation

October - Bramble bashing

November - Coppicing in Webb's Wood

December - Coppicing in Sherbourne's Brake

January - Hedgelaying weekend.

#### "Educational" events

Bat walks, wildflower walks and fungi forays had proved popular and newt monitoring nights/moth trapping were also a possibility.

Robin suggested that workdays and other events should be linked to species that we were trying to increase, e.g. if particular wildlife was to be encouraged then some

work that would benefit this wildlife should be carried out, with surveys before and after to ascertain the effect.

### Community fair

Hannah, Emma, Dave, Rob and John could run the stall. Paul would also attend with his lathe. Emma would email the council to ask if the group could be put with other conservation groups. **Action: Emma.** John suggested that the "activity" could be to make pencils, using charcoal made at the green gym.

### "Wild Savages" event - Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June

This event would be family-orientated and would set up woodland trails with animal characters along the route. The Avon Wildlife Trust would run the day but the group could be present to hand out publicity. Emma, Hannah, Sara and possibly Steve could attend.

### Festival of Light - 16/17 November

This event tied in with Diwali. Children would make paper lanterns and follow waymarked trails through the woods, where some trees would be floodlit. This was subject to receiving funding.

### **AOB**

Jenny had forwarded information about a possible grant from O2. The group discussed a "wish list" of things to be applied for as grant came up. Suggestions included:

- Tools, gloves etc (for when the tool store is in place)
- Field guides
- Projects in specific areas of the reserve or aimed at specific species
- Bee hives
- Perspex leaflet boxes
- Website development

Mike noted that many AWT members lived in Bradley Stoke. It might be possible to put 3BNCG publicity into the AWT mailing envelopes. **Action: Emma to discuss further with Mike.**