

THREE BROOKS NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on 27 April 2006 at the Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke

Present:

Members Hannah Watts (Chair), Rachael Ann, David Baker, Rachel Callow, Steven Callow (Treasurer), Emma Creasey (Secretary), Richard Cridland, Robin Jones, Sara Messenger, John Morris, Ceri Pritchard

Non-members Colin Blenkinsopp

In attendance: Sarah Barker, Bradley Stoke Community School
Paul Humphreys, BTCV

Apologies received from: Gwen Clark

Minutes of the last meeting (8 September 2005)

The minutes were approved.

Matters arising

It was noted that:

- John has passed the text for the publicity leaflet to the graphics department and hopes to have these printed in time for the community fair on 10 June. He would like to know what key features should be put on the map. **Action: please send ideas to Emma.**
- General meetings will be held when needed rather than a set number of times per year.
- Sharon Ubank has had to withdraw from the committee due to other commitments.
- There will be some RADAR access for wheelchair users on some of the reserve footpaths.
- Newts have been seen in the lower grassland pond (nearest Savage's Wood).

Report on activity 2005-06

Members received the report. John thanked the group for their hard work over the year.

It was noted that numbers attending workdays had gone down slightly so it was important to keep up publicity. Sarah Barker offered to help with publicity by advertising events in the school newsletter.

Rachel Callow's designs for a logo were shown to the group. The group agreed to use the logo and thanked Rachel.

Treasurer's report 2005-06

Steven presented the report. The group had £292.02 in the bank at the end of the financial year 2005-06.

A cheque had just been received from South Gloucestershire Council to purchase a freight container for a tool store. A site needed to be found for this - John was speaking to the school and to the leisure centre. It was possible that planning permission would be needed

If the group needed further funds, John noted that the town council operated a community grant fund. The Bradley Stoke Rotary group might also wish to make a donation.

Appointment of officers

Hannah, Emma and Steven were unanimously re-appointed as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Sarah Messenger and David Baker were appointed to the Committee as Ordinary Members.

Work for the next 6 months

The following programme was agreed:

Saturday 6 May

Fencing in old orchard, Primrose Bridge - joint with Patchway Conservation Group.

Saturday 3 June

Clearing Himalayan balsam and montbretia from the brook near Sherbourne's Brake, and planting wild flowers.

We can apply for an environment grant to purchase the flowers. **Action: John to send Steve the application form: Hannah to look for sources of flowers.**

Note: Paul needs to get a colleague, Jenny Darwin, to join us for this as he cannot attend.

Saturday 1 July
Grass cutting near Webbs Wood.

The grass should be surveyed first for wildflowers. **Action: Emma - John to send exact OS reference.**

Saturday 5 August
Family event in the woods - green wood working, minibeast hunts, bird/insect box making.

Saturday 2 September
Stream clearing.

Saturday 7 October
To be confirmed - either we will be back in the marsh as part of a "marsh week" to be organised by Paul, or we will start coppicing again. **Action: Paul to confirm details.**

In addition:

- John would arrange moth hunts for evenings in June.
- Paul would arrange bat hunts for evenings in July/August/September.
- Paul is making a pole lathe in the Mall on 7 June and asked if someone could attend on behalf of the group - Hannah, Richard and David were available.
- Paul was also arranging for a charcoal burner to come at the end of July to burn some of the timber left from the thinning of the plantation.
- There were number of unofficial paths into Savage's Wood by the leisure centre - the council might do some fencing work.
- John noted that S.Glos Council now has a staff member responsible for litter, who is co-ordinating groups to collect it. **Action: anyone interested in litter picking to contact Emma who will forward details to John.**

Paul's support over the next year

Paul explained that he had obtained funding to work in the LNR in the coming year, under a project run by Prudential/the Mall at Cribbs Causeway. This would involve working with several groups in Bradley Stoke. He suggested that the group could apply for a further Awards for All grant to buy his time for workday support. The group agreed that Paul should complete an application form on the group's behalf. **Action: Paul.**

Paul's colleague, Jenny Darwin, had recently taken up the post of Green Gym officer and would come into the reserve once a week to run this project with the community.

Discussion on how workdays are run

Members agreed that:

- All workdays should start at 10 am and finish (i.e. pack up) at 4 pm.
- Volunteers would need to be aware of how much clearing up would need to be done at the end of the day and stop with enough time to do this. Anyone on a workday would need to be clear about "etiquette" such as tidying away a fallen tree before starting another.
- It would be good to hold a 2-day event, such as the hedgelaying, on an annual basis.
- It would be helpful to prepare a sign about the group to put up on workdays, so that passers-by knew who we were. **Action: John/Emma.**

AOB

The committee would need to meet soon to discuss the community fair on 10 June. The group would once again be running a stall and offering the chance to make insect boxes. Volunteers were needed to give an hour of their time to help run the stall. **Action: Emma to ask for volunteers and set up committee meeting.**

John announced that wooden "gateway signs" had been put up at key points around the reserve and further "bus stop" style signs would also be erected, where the group could display posters and local schools could display their work. Richard volunteered to put up posters when available.

We are still asking for suggestions about where to put seats on the reserve. **Action: send suggestions to Emma.**

In June, S. Glos Council is holding an evening meeting for local conservation groups - the agenda will include increasing volunteer numbers. John will let the group have more details.

ESC 8.5.06