



**Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Held on 28 April 2010 at the Ramada Grange Hotel, Winterbourne**

Present:

Rachael Ann
Dave Baker (Ord. Member/Green Gym leader)
Emma Creasey (Secretary)
Richard Cridland
Tony Field
Robin Jones (Ord. Member)
Sara Messenger (Treasurer)
John Morris
Andy Moon
Ceri Pritchard
Hannah Watts (Chair)
Rob Williams

Apologies: Steven and Rachel Callow

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

1. The minutes of the 2009 AGM were agreed.
2. The newt ponds are being surveyed and John will pursue with the newt ecologist whether 3BNCG members can accompany him on a pond survey. **Action: John.**

Secretary's report on activity 2009-10

3. Emma presented the report. Members discussed the difficulty of getting new people to return for a second workday. As well as providing them with information it was thought that a personal follow-up email after the workday might be valuable. It would also be useful to note down the numbers of new volunteers attending. **Action: EC.**

Treasurer's report 2009-10

4. Sara presented the report. The group has £1576.47 available, £335.55 of which is committed (a walk and general costs, plus a small underspend, from the SLA grant).

Green Gym report 2009-10

5. Dave presented a report. The Green Gym has a regular core of 6-8 members and has settled into a routine of tasks. Further bird boxes have been put up, made by the Alzheimer's Society. The group has passed re-assessment by the Green Gym leader.

Appointment of officers

6. The existing committee members were re-appointed for a further year.

Workday and event planning

7. John advised the group that tenders had gone out for a contractor to draw up a new 5-year Management Plan for the reserve. Once this had been finalised, it should be possible to identify more specific tasks.
8. The following plan of workdays was agreed, but may be subject to some change once a new Management Plan has been drawn up:
 - May – Stream clearing will begin at Savage's Wood and work upstream to Primrose Bridge.
 - June – More stream clearing and balsam bashing.
 - July – Haycut next to Webb's Wood, starting from the school end.
 - August – Haycut in orchard.
 - September – Marsh irrigation.
 - October – Path clearing/maintenance – possibly the Avon Community Forest path between Primrose Bridge and Savage's Wood. Ideally a stone surface is needed, which would require a grant.
 - November – Tree thinning around the Bowsland or Northern plantations – tbc.
9. Richard raised the issue that programmes needed to be put up around the reserve promptly.

Action: EC to draw up programme and circulate round group and to SGC print room. John to inform SGC print room that we will contact them direct.

10. The group agreed that they would like to run further bat walks over the summer. As young families were attracted to these they should be held at weekends and perhaps earlier or later in the season when dusk occurred earlier. It was

suggested that the Avon Bat Group could be contacted to lead these. SGC could also provide bat detectors with sufficient notice. **Action: EC.**

11. A Fungi Foray on a weekend was agreed to. **Action: EC to book.**
12. Other suggestions included an “edibles walk” and a small mammals survey (**EC to look into this**) and a Green Woodworking day (**Andy Moon to make enquiries**).
13. Dave commented that on 27th May the Green Gym were taking a trip to the Monk’s Pool reserve at Winterbourne and others were welcome to join them.

Ideas for spending funds

14. Members agreed to an idea from Steven and Rachel Callow that a leaflet should be produced specifically about the group. It should cover the kind of tasks we carry out, why this was beneficial – possibly including quotes from group members – pictures of significant achievements and contact details. Some funds could be used to print it. Rob offered to put the leaflet together once the text had been agreed. The group suggested Rachel could do some artwork. **Action: Committee to take forward - EC to coordinate.**
15. The £600 from Martin Davis should be used at least in part for some sort of memorial to his father. John advised that a chainsaw carver had been commissioned by the town council to make benches for the reserve. The group felt that spending the entire donation on one bench might be excessive but that a plaque could be put on one of the benches in Savage’s Wood. **Action: Committee to take forward.**
16. Other spending ideas were:
 - Further tools – including replacement saw blades
 - Embroidered badges (**RW to get quote**)
 - T-shirts and polo shirts (**RW to get quote**)
 - FSC laminated guides
 - Notice board by tank bridge.
17. Hi-vis jackets were also suggested but these are available free from SGC for residents who cycle. **Action - John to pick up a couple of hi-vis jackets**

Other matters

18. John will continue looking into a web forum for recording activities although it is not possible to link to the group website due to government policy. **Action: John.**
19. John advised that SGC is seeking a Green Flag award for the reserve.

20. Richard Cridland offered to repair birdboxes.
21. The group website should include a link to the Orienteering Trail information on the SGC website. **Action: Robin**
22. The planned “pump track” was moving from its originally planned location due to concerns over flooding and woodland compaction. The track would be moved closer to the orchard. John was currently waiting to hear back from the BTCV coordinating officer.
23. There were concerns that the new cycle path that was laid by the Bradley Stoke Way underpass was over-engineered and inappropriate for a nature reserve location. Members could complain to the council if they wished.
24. Gates had been put on the lower pond but a padlock was needed to stop people bringing dogs in. A new sign explaining this was needed. It might be possible to spend some funds on turf and marginal plants. **Action: Sara.**
25. John reminded the group that a risk assessment had to be carried out before each work party and sent to him (the generic risk assessment was OK) and that any work involving digging required a service check to be carried out first.