

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting
of the Friends of Badock's Wood
held on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7.00 p.m.
at Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, Bristol**



Present: Linda Wilson (Chair), Roger Moses (Vice Chair), Jan Walker (Treasurer), Frances Robertson (Secretary), Alex Minshull, Pat Rogers, Sarah Hudson, Jennifer Boere, Nick Keeler, Diane Barlow, Alan Aburrow, Elizabeth Boere

Apologies: Helen Gamsa, Peter Lazlo, Graham Mullan, Anthony Negus, Simon Richards, Christina Shewell,

Linda Wilson welcomed everyone and they introduced themselves.

1. Approval of Minutes of 2024 AGM

Minutes of 2024 AGM approved with small round of applause.

2. Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2024/25 had been circulated and is available from the Secretary.

Frances reported that this was the second year of monthly conservation work parties, but they could use more volunteers.

Regarding Ash Die Back, the Council considered that the trees affected by ash dieback are not a huge problem as yet. The Council has organized removal of dead and dying ash trees that were by the footpaths and that might fall on people's houses, as is their policy.

The David Lloyd planning applications, despite our objections, were both approved: including the floodlights without any changes for bat-friendly lighting. There is a restriction for when the lights can be on. The lights do appear to be working as required. There was also approval for the application for the spa garden. We had hoped that the two applications would be considered together but the spa garden was considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

In terms of the Management Plan, there was meant to be a new Management Plan written by one of the Council Parks officers. We understand that there is meant to be a woodland management plan for the ancient woodland but that is apparently to be outsourced. There is currently no management plan for the woodland. We have not had very many tree walks recently and we might ask the tree officer if they will lead these. The Council has additional tree officers as part of their Climate Plan.

Three volunteers and the leader have been the composition of most work parties in recent months.

The litter pick group, led by Sarah, has been very successful with less and less litter.

Roger has continued to monitor the birds. Members had seen: little egret, three fledged owlets, great spotted woodpecker, amongst others.

The City Nature Challenge (annual bioblitz) has been done.

FoBW now own a bat detector. There are eight species of bat recorded to date in Badock's Wood, two of which are amber listed. The bat detector sticks into the usb port of a smartphone and operates on an app. This detector uses GPS to know where you are and knows which bats are most likely; it will tell you the species with its confidence level of accuracy. We hope to start regular bat surveys around the end of May. This model differs from the "pro" model in having fewer frequencies, only those appropriate for the UK.

A reliable witness spotted a weasel. These small mustelid carnivores are nocturnal. It was seen on the tarmac path.

A little egret has been seen in the wood which means there is food for him, which indicates (probably) small fish. These are also seen on the rest of the Trym system.

An eel has also been spotted in the Trym.

An otter was spotted in a nocturnal camera in the Westbury Wildlife Park.

The other monitoring we did this year was Gene Pools: using eDNA to determine what species have been using the water. A sample of the water is sent for analysis. However there is difficulty in determining which record belongs to Badock's Wood. [Note post meeting: Natural History Museum who was running this project have now found FOBW results and Frances can send people who want it a link to read the details.]

We ran some walks last year, particularly during Bristol WalkFest 2024.

There was an outdoor disco organized in Southmead Adventure Playground by Alfresco Disco who was making a substantial donation to Southmead Development Trust for the use of the playground. FOBW had attended a meeting with SDT and Alfresco Disco and raised our concerns re noise and light impacts. Linda had negotiated a donation of £750 to FoBW although it was still made clear that FoBW objected due to the wildlife impacts. The amplified music was very loud but apparently residents didn't complain, at least not to FOBW. They are not intending to do it again this year.

Bird boxes are being installed. Some were purchased before the pandemic and are now being put up by Joe McKenna from ParkWork. Any member wanting details of locations can contact Frances for the Wha3Words locations.

The steps need to be replaced and this is under discussion. ParkWork said that this will be done during 2025 with some of the costs from council funds and it may be carried out by corporate volunteers. The discussion of replacing these steps has been ongoing for 10 years and Frances will try to get a date set.

Benches need replacing and could possibly be done by ParkWork.

The fingerposts have been vandalised (some only shortly after installation) but it has been decided that FOBW should not pay for them to be replaced, so they will not be replaced. They had been made of composite not metal but purchased from the Council's own signpost contractor apparently to Council specifications, as far as Frances had been given to understand. It has been noted however that the public footpath sign which remains, which the Council put up is metal.

The information boards need to be updated. Nik Pollard, the artist who designed the sparrowhawk on the Jubilee bench will be consulted about being involved.

In the Local Plan, Badock's Wood is designated as "Local Green Space" the top protection for an open space which should mean no one can build on it.

3. Treasurer's Report

The accounts were presented.

Jan provided an explanation to the submitted accounts. Income over the past year included donations from individuals collected at our events, online donations via our Go Fund Me account, and the large donation from Alfresco Disco, as mentioned in the Secretary's report, from their event in the Adventure Playground.

Lloyds Bank has made significant changes to their bank account which includes introducing a number of bank charges. We are therefore changing to NatWest which still has free community accounts - free up to 10 transactions per month, which we do not have more than. We are also looking into getting a contactless machine because people no longer carry cash for donations.

The Treasurer's Report is available to view, as is the bank statement which the Treasurer brought to the meeting for members to verify against the presented accounts.

The Restricted Funds are all underspends from previous grants and major donations. The Community Routes Project will be put towards refurbishment / upgrading the information boards.

Roger proposed approval of the annual accounts and Jen seconded; accounts approved.

4. Election of officers:

Officer posts which are elected.

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Nominations were received for the existing officers to be re-elected. No other members were nominated and a vote was taken for the following officers.

Chair — Linda Wilson

Vice-chair — Roger Moses

Treasurer — Jan Walker

Secretary — Frances Robertson

The officers were unanimously approved.

Other Committee members (co-optees)

There are a number of other activities that need doing in the group and whilst not elected, volunteers were sought from the membership. Being a member of the Committee would also involve being willing to be emailed and to respond by email; responsiveness is important. There are also meetings which are usually quarterly.

The Committee is also accountable at general meetings and the AGM.

The following roles were agreed and volunteers approved.

Management plan coordinator — Linda Wilson

Webmaster — Graham Mullan

Litter pick leader — Sarah Hudson

Wildlife — Roger Moses

Minutes secretary — Jen Boere

Archivist — Alan Burrow

Youth representative — Elizabeth Boere

Work party leader — Alex Minshull (not on the committee)

Matt Hobbs has taken on the logging the wildlife every month. Roger would like to have a public wildlife / bird group as previously and it is hoped Roger and Matt can meet up soon.

Roger explained he has given up leading the bird survey due to osteoarthritis and age-dependent hearing loss.

AGM closed.

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of
the Friends of Badock's Wood
held on Tuesday 15th April 2025
at Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, Bristol



Present: Linda Wilson (Chair), Roger Moses (Vice Chair), Jan Walker (Treasurer), Frances Robertson (Secretary), Alex Minshull, Pat Rogers, Sarah Hudson, Jennifer Boere, Nick Keeler, Diane Barlow, Alan Aburrow, Elizabeth Boere

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1. Approval of Notes of Ordinary Meeting held 19th November 2024

Moved by Linda and seconded by Frances, approved by meeting.

2. Matters arising:

Information regarding banking options has been sent to Nick as requested.

3. Events and activities

a. City Nature Challenge and the Recreation Field

Frances explained that for the annual City Nature Challenge she would like to do a bioblitz on the recreation field. There were few records of what wildlife and wildflowers are present. Having a clear idea of what is present would inform the future management of the field. FOBW is in still talking with the Council about the status of the field which is not in the LNR designation. It was been removed from playing field use by the Parks Dept in 2017 and is considered derelict as a sports pitch but at the moment is still listed as a playing field by the City Council Playing Pitch Strategy. It has no facilities as a sports pitch and has a growing badger sett on the edge of the field and a very large badger sett in Elmfield School. We are going to bioblitz the field which will help to tell us what nature is moving into the site especially as we want it incorporated into the nature reserve. It is heavily used as a dog field and therefore may not be appropriate as a hay field. We have a consensus that it will be best keep short for community use; we do not want it mown only once a year.

b. Bristol Walks Festival – May 2025

We are organising some walks for this. Details will be in the next newsletter.

c. Bat monitoring

There will be more bat monitoring this year using our new bat detector. Anyone wanting to borrow it please contact Frances.

d. General management information

The alexanders have been cut back by the new ranger because they are invasive and this year in particular are spreading through the wildflower meadows – Meadow 1 aka Cowslip Meadow in particular.

4. Trout in the Trym

Trout in the Trym is a group comprising all the River Trym related community groups along the Trym from Southmead to Sea Mills.

They run a project on the whole water system of the Trym. They have completed one run of getting rid of Himalyan balsam. We have participated but have done this on our section of the Trym for many years so we do not have a large problem with it.

They are also working on getting rid of the rubbish in the bottom of the river and have done one run of this. They are also working on the fly tipping near the river. They are also working with Wessex Water to improve the water quality. A lot of the problems we have had with water quality are domestic water connections.

5. Finances and Fundraising:

Finances were covered in the AGM.

Fundraising: the GoFundMe that Frances set up, which brings in donation money every month is a main source of donations income. This will need to be changed with the change in bank. Other options with other sites to be explored.

Action: Jan

There is specific fundraising needed for the paths which are not statutory and which have no statutory remit for the council to maintain them. All the harder surfaced paths are a legacy from when there were prefabs on the site. The one that runs past the pond around the meadows gets muddy which is a constant problem because the grass is higher than the path. Where there are muddy paths people are walking on the meadows and the wildflower areas are getting damaged. The Parks Projects Team have put a nice path in another park and we have asked for a quote for similar paths in Badock's Wood. It would be a substantial job and would need considerable fundraising and/or grants. There is one particular path that we would like upgraded because it is our only level path which would be suitable for people who need accessible paths. Frances is liaising with the Parks Officers over how to get a quote and what needs doing so we can start fundraising.

6. Dogs in the wood

Badock's Wood attracts a particularly large number of dog owners and professional dog walkers. The numbers of dogs off lead is contributing to damage in the woods and river banks. Concern has been raised that professional dog walkers (and others with multiple dogs) bring in large numbers of dogs who are all off lead at the same time, not under come-to-call control and not having the dog poo all collected as it is probably hard to follow 6 dogs in different directions at once.

It was noted that some councils charge professional dog walkers to use the parks. We do not know if Bristol City Council is still considering this.

An XL Bully has also been seen in the woods without a muzzle on. Anyone seeing this should report it directly to the dog warden.

The meeting agreed that we would support a code of conduct and registration for professional dog walkers.

Next meeting:

Winter meeting by zoom, suggestion of early November on a Tuesday.