

**Notes of Ordinary Meeting of the Friends of Badock's Wood
held on Tuesday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m.
The Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Southmead, BS10 5PY**

Present: Tony West (Chair), Geoff Perrett (Treasurer), Frances Robertson (Secretary), Linda Wilson (Management Plan Co-ordinator), Martin Firth, Chrissie Kelly, Tony Smith

Apologies: Alan Aburrow (Vice-Chair), Sheila Quinn, Nicola Ramsden, Jo West

1. Community Input Management Plan

i. General update

Linda provided update based on her written report already circulated.

Tony reported that he had written to the Parks Department and the Mayor of Bristol about the Parks Dept cuts and reorganisation – as agreed at last meeting.

There had been the matter of muddy paths across the meadows raised by a visitor to the wood. Frances had written back the gist of which was to explain that these were managed wildflower meadows for wildlife and there was an all-weather path which should be used if the ground is muddy and the walker cannot cross the meadows. The Council nor FOBW do not have the resources to manage the mud for walkers, nor is it desirable from a wildlife management perspective to make a more permanent path. The meeting endorsed this response.

Sian raised the issue of potential for scything and raking on the meadows and it was noted that the Council had not been happy to have this happen when approached by BTCV to do it as a training exercise at Badock's Wood. Sian, Tony and Linda to also discuss this separately outside the meeting.

Action: Sian, Tony West and Linda

ii. Bluebells

Tony described where he had planted the native bluebells purchased by the group. In view of the poor weather he had done the planting on his own when he could, weather and ground conditions permitting. The group thanked him for his hard work on this.

Non-native bluebell removals to take place at short notice depending on bluebell flowering season in 2015 as it is easier to do when in flower. Tony will let the group know in Spring.

Action: Tony West

iii. Tree whips – playing field

There has been an offer of more tree whips. A spot check on the tree whips previously planted at the Holmwood Gardens end of the playing field had shown that the first phase of whips had not survived well but the second phase had had better survival rates.

There was a potential to use some whips as part of the work at the Lake Road entrance – to known as Lake End. Tony West to follow up offer of whips.

Action: Tony West

2. Parks Forum report

Sian reported back. The Forum had been well attended and Sian had raised two issues on behalf of FOBW:

- a) Parks restructuring and cuts – she had raised the loss to Badock's Wood of Mark Newport / Park Keepers generally and many other groups were similarly concerned. The Parks Department is talking about having a "presence" in the wood and other parks and open spaces, but it was unclear what this meant. The Forum is to have a special meeting about Parks Department and contributing to the shape of the Department. Linda hoped to attend the January meeting of the Forum with Sian.

Action: Sian & Linda

- b) Dog walkers Members of BPF also had similar concerns as us re multiple dogs and professional dog walkers and it is to be a future agenda item with the Dog Warden invited to the meeting. Also raised concern re plastic bins and potential for them being burnt. Linda reported that she had spoken to BCC re issues of dog walkers and not properly controlling and managing dogs and the use of public land for commercial purposes. There is also a question as to why dog walkers do not need a licence / permission from the Council yet FOBW and other people such as Forest School organisers must notify and get licences from the Council for activities in the wood.

FOBW recommendation is that the Council should require commercial dog walkers to be registered with the Council who would require at the very least that dog walkers be insured. Linda to formally communicate the recommendation from FOBW meeting to BCC and BPF on behalf of the group. **Action: Linda**

Sian also reported that BPF had put in a funding bid to pay for a Volunteer Co-ordinator but this had not been supported.

Chrissie volunteered to represent FOBW on the Green Routes to Southmead Hospital project if it is successful. **Action: Chrissie**

Sian to circulate BPF meeting minutes. **Action: Sian**

3. Events and Activities in the Wood

i. Walking Festival

Frances reported that there would be another Bristol Walking Festival in May and it was agreed that FOBW would organise a walk to take place during the Festival.

ii. Wildflower counts

Tony, Nicola and Sian to discuss and arrange dates.

iii. Bristol Naturalists' Society Green Capital Event

BNS is organising a Green Capital event on 7th March in the Bradbury Hall, Henleaze, but this is now clashing with a BPF event on the same day. BNS has asked if FOBW could have a joint FOBW / BPF stall at their event on 7th March. It was agreed that we would do and volunteers would be sought. Frances to action. **Action: Frances**

iv. Other suggestions

Other events should be organised around the Green Hidden Treasure Project. Tony Smith volunteered to lead an invertebrates walk.

4. Future Projects and Fundraising

i. Green Hidden Treasures

Frances reported that FOBW had been successful in getting £5,000 Green Capital Small Grant (and since the meeting FOBW was given a further £2080 grant from the Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury on Trym Neighbourhood Partnership Well Being Fund. This was great news and meant that the Project as outlined in the project brief previously agreed by the group, could go ahead as planned. Linda would be leading and liaising with Andy O'Neill re benches and sculptures and Frances would organise the associated events and activities with help from other members of the FOBW group.

5. Southmead Community Plan

No one had been able to attend the meeting due to family emergencies, but Frances would keep in touch with them. **Action: Frances**

6. Approval of Notes of Previous Meeting held 23rd September 2014

Approved.

7. Matters arising not already covered on the agenda

Contacting FOBW trained volunteers – Frances still to do

Action: Frances

Water pollution – ongoing – still some concerns. There was a query about whether the water quality of Henleaze Lake and the Horfield unnamed tributary.

8. Any Other Business

Meeting space.

It was agreed to hold the AGM at the Greenway Centre, but depending on numbers, if numbers attending remain few, rather than spend money hiring a meeting room at the Centre, the Southmead Fire Station would be approached for use of their meeting room free of charge.

Geoff volunteered to talk to the Fire station.

Action: Geoff

9. Proposed dates of future meetings in 2015 – all to be held at 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 17th March 2015 – AGM – Greenway Centre

Tuesday 2nd June 2015 – venue tbc

Tuesday 15th September 2015 – venue - tbc

Tuesday 1st December 2015 – venue tbc