

Minutes of ECONET meeting held 23.08.05 at Environment Centre

Present - John Lerpiniere (CROW), Judith Oliver (CROW, FoCC), Alan Stevens (CROW), Julia Westgate (BTCV), Paul Fincher.

Apologies - David Booth, Tricia Marcouse, Ruth Angus.

In the absence of the chairperson John L. chaired and minuted the meeting.

Matters Arising:

Christmas tree sales:

It was decided not to sell trees this year for several reasons:

There is, so far, no news on a vehicle for transport except that Ruth A. had contacted a vehicle hire company. There is heavy excess on a vehicle being scratched so it was deemed unsuitable.

Only one site had been investigated for trees, namely Bucklebury Common, from which John L. reported there are no trees as contractors have removed the last.

(News since - BBOWT have a site which will probably be unsuitable for Econet, they will be selling in the east of the county).

Econet leaflets had been produced and some distributed since Woodlands Day. **David B.** will forward to libraries and community Centres.

Woodlands Day was a great success once more, RBC went unnoticed!

Some tools had been bought, more to come. (**John L.**)

Risk assessment forms were not yet on the website - **Paul F.** to see what is needed and liaise with Julia W. at BTCV.

Treasurer:

Alan S. had received accounts from Philip Allen and transfer just completed.

The balance at April stood at £2,907, the increase due to the tool fund being transferred from Clayfield Copse account.

The current balance was £3,391 - a grant had been received towards insurance of around £500 due in December. Leaflet printing of £360, website under £100 and some tools purchase will be paid.

(CROW had opened a new account with Nationwide as Alliance & Leicester no longer supported an account. It stood at over £400 in April, but invoices were still going out, and it was now £920.)

Of general interest CROW had also developed a travel/transport costing and payment system, a copy had been circulated to Econet groups.

Grant application forms had been distributed, the treasurer expects return information/comments in order to apply. (**All groups**) Equal opportunities and health and safety statements are also requested by RBC as part of grant application, comments to Alan please as all this must be submitted by October. (**Alan S.** to liaise with BTCV?)

Alan was thanked for the great effort he has put into organising these matters.

#### Health and Safety (other than above):

First aid boxes had disappeared from the tools store (except two empty ones). One reappeared but the contents were out of date. New boxes will be sought (**no one nominated**)

A CROW task without a first aid box (although it was known RBC would be present with one) was embarrassing as a participant suffered minor cuts on the left hand from a saw, luckily BTCV were also present and came to the rescue.

This is a reminder that tools talks should precede activities as a glove should be worn on the left hand whilst sawing, the saw often jumps during the first actions of cutting.

The question of an accident book arose but no decision was made.

The equipment recording diary was missing. (It was subsequently found at the back of the tool store but has no recent entries)

Participants should also be aware of possible infections including Weil's disease (from rats infecting water), Lyme's disease (from ticks in grass carried by deer, wear long trousers) and Tetanus (GPs should give ten-yearly injections to 'outdoor' people).

BTCV regularly run courses including Health and Safety and Tool Use, these are very useful to all participants but essential for leaders. BTCV also invite groups to state their particular requirements as courses can be purpose built.

#### Reports from groups:

##### CROW

are making use of the new Econet brochure and have printed an insert listing task dates for up to three months which is regularly updated and changed.

A full programme is running and numbers are encouraging. More community groups are asking to participate and numbers will probably have to be limited.

The coppicing/glade creation season starts.

(Making use of a wet task day the group has subsequently reorganised and tidied the tool store.)

##### BTCV

See Health and Safety. Their brochure was circulated at the meeting and includes tool use and risk assessment courses in October then tree felling in November.

#### AOB:

When should minutes and agenda go out? Is a spring sale feasible? Put on next agenda.

#### Date of next meeting:

Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Environment Centre, Prospect Park, or 7.0 for mince pies.