

**ECONET Annual General Meeting**  
**20<sup>th</sup> September 2010**  
**Parks Department Offices, Prospect Park 7:30pm**

**Present:**

Alan Stevens  
Dave Booth (RBC)  
John Lerpiniere  
Judith Oliver  
Kit Brownlee (Chair)  
Oonagh Kelleher (BTCV, Minutes)  
Ricky Josey  
Tricia Marcouse

**Apologies:**

Anne Latto, Steve Ayers

**Minutes of Meeting held 1st March 2010 & Matters Arising**

'University Group' - Kit to have a look on website to see about contacting them. Econet would like to reestablish contact which has been lost, there are a number of developments on campus about which it would be useful to have information such as changes in access including to the Harris Garden.

Friends of Mcllroys Park have transferred funds to Econet and closed their account so are now fully embedded in Econet as are Mapledurham. No word on this from Clayfield.

There has been no recent contact with the Friends of Waterloo Meadows and we are therefore unable to advertise their events. Without greater involvement it was felt they could not continue to be considered to be part of Econet and covered by its insurance. Alan to contact.

Alan needs to know what groups have been doing and how many volunteers are coming out in order to determine whether Econet has adequate but not excessive insurance cover.

Tools for Self Reliance - Kit looking for contact - will look online.

Judith attended small woods forum. She had no feedback on this as all they wanted to know was how many woods are in Reading.

Minutes from last meeting accepted.

**Election of Officers**

Chair - Kit

Treasurer - Alan (as long as issue regarding Clayfield's bank account is sorted out)

Both elected unopposed.

## **News & Updates**

**Conserve Reading on Wednesdays (CROW)** Had full programme over the summer, and will be back into coppicing and hedgelaying soon. There is a full programme for this coming Autumn.

**Mapledurham Playing Fields** An orchard has been planted there of approximately 80 trees of which 80% are apple and cherry. This was donated by Bolve Enghime. Wildflowers are to be planted/sown beneath the trees.

**Clayfield Copse** Some of the ponds have been deepened and are to be surveyed. There was a very successful butterfly walk attended by 30 people. It has not been possible to find a leader for a fungus walk and this will not now occur. A tree walk could still happen perhaps lead by Michael Keith-Lucas or BTCV's Paul Forrest-Jameson, Oonagh will ask latter. Judith quizzed Dave about an ash tree that was felled and he explained it was considered dangerous.

**RUWG** Haven't been doing any practical work.

**BTCV** Offered training to local groups in first aid, risk assessment and leadership. Have been doing a monthly task in Reading in partnership with RBC.

## **Health & Safety**

Tools brought by individuals to tasks should be checked to insure they are safe.

## **Accounts**

- **Last year (2009/10)**
  - Expenditure was £1,621 an increase of £85 on the estimate at the March meeting because of additional expenditure on tools (loppers for FoMPF and secateurs).
  - Income was £1,218 down £360 on the March estimate as task charges from WBC were not paid until May.
  - Account balance at end of year £2,249, a decrease of £403 on the previous year. However £560 task charges where outstanding.
  - Net income from tasks (charges less refreshments/transport costs) £288.
- **This year (2010/11)**
  - Account balance currently £3,544.
  - Expenditure to date £184, £90 relates to task expenses (refreshment and transport) and most of the remainder to event expenses (printing, etc.). Further £120 to be paid for providing transport at end of month (September) and insurance and website rental, £500 and £40 respectively, at end of year.
  - Income amounts to £1480, £500 RBC grant, £520 task charges from last year, £50 task charges this year, £230 bean pole sales (many thanks to Judith for all her efforts). Also £178.30 from FoMP on closing their bank account and who are now fully part of Econet - welcome!
  - Income from this year's tasks not yet invoiced £240.

- Projected income from planned tasks in remainder of the year £320. Estimated task costs for remainder of year £240. Projected net income for year £180.
- 'Friends of' tasks never claim for refreshments - money is available!
- Additionally £50 grant for CSV Action Earth task at Englefield Market Garden at end of July used to purchase light weight spades and forks which were donated to the Market Garden at the end of the task.
- **Next year (2011/12)**
  - RBC Grant situation - funding to be distributed differently. There will be meetings to explain the new funding scheme on 12th and 14th October.
  - Community Wildlife grant application (Big Lottery Fund) made for composting area and improvements to the wildflower meadow at the Ridgeline Trust's therapeutic garden in Whiteknights Road. Response by second week in November. Work for BTCV BAT team and Econet.
- **Tasks**
  - 51 CROW tasks last year of which 1 was abandoned, 4 tasks cancelled because of snow. Minimum turnout 2, maximum 21. Average turnout per CROW task last year 8.4 volunteers, 6.9 for 'Friends of'; this year to date 7.7 for CROW tasks, 7.5 for 'Friends of'.

## **Publicity and Events**

**Forbury Fever** went well as did the **Earley Green Fair**, Econet being present at both.

**Christmas Tree Sale** - Saturday 11th December. Trees coming from Ceasers Camp and Wokefield Common, is there any where else? There is a task on 3rd December cutting at Ceasers Camp and on 8th December at Wokefield Common, is anyone able to collect? Christmas wreaths will also be made and sold. Trees not sold to be left for RBC to chip. At event there should be leaflets from RBC telling people where to recycled their trees. Charge £5 per tree at sale. Needs more advertising this year: send emails and put it on GREN website, Oonagh to do press release.

**Bean Pole Week** 23rd April to 1st May - Bean Pole Week - considering contacting Friends of Caversham Court to sell bean polls and pea sticks there that week. Have an order book. What not sold to go to BBOWT - Tricia is looking into events with BBOWT.

## **Tools**

Topping up tools. Got some tools from BTCV. Tricia asked about a tool for sharpening secateurs.

## **DEFRA consultation on Future of Wildlife Management/ Funding in England**

- Plan to draw up government white paper
- This is a invitation to shape the nature of England!

Key issues - global questions that are very broad. How can value be put on the natural environment in order to give it a status when discussing roads, urban development and farming etc..

Tricia will circulate what she writes for RUWG and Econet can also submit it in their name if they agree.

**Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday, 21st March 2011, Parks Department Offices, Prospect Park at 7.30pm.**