

Minutes of Econet AGM

Monday, 14th September 2015 at 7:30pm

RBC Parks Department Offices, Prospect Park

Present: Peter Scudamore, Tricia Marcouse, Alan Stevens, Cathy Holwill, John Lepiniere, Steve Ayres, Judith Oliver

Apologies: Kit Brownlee, Glenn Jones, Andy Gillespie.

T.M stated Kit was unwell. Those present wished Kit a speedy recovery.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted.

Matters Arising: None.

Election of Officers: Kit and Alan re-elected and thanked for their efforts during the last year.

News and Updates:

CROW: J.L reported that there were decent numbers attending, averaging 10. Currently working on winter programme including a new site at Lavells Lake.

Friends of Cemetery Junction: A.S reported that they had received a grant of £2,000 from Olswang Community Funding Scheme, for signage.

Friends of Mapledurham Playing Fields: S.A reported that tasks would resume in October. Two members attend the site Management Committee and were concerned at the general health of the fruit trees in the orchard area, some needed replacing. A.S said that money could be made available from Econet to fund this if required. General advice was given including installing mulch mats. Other general tasks on site were path clearance. S.A also reported that T.M was completing a survey on vascular wild life which may be used as part of the protest against a school being built on the site. T.M will send a copy of the survey to Carolyn Jenkins at RBC. S.A thanked T.M, Michael Keith Lucas and Anne Booth for their efforts in producing the survey.

Friends of Mcllroy Park: A.S reported that the average turnout was 6, work included holly and bramble clearance. Request had been made for additional tools.

Friends of Waterloo Meadows: A.S reported that although the average turnout was 2, they had had 18 tasks, including evening ones and a birthday party.

RUWG: T.M reported that they were working at distributing their funds for educational use including -

Oxford Road Community Gardens: negotiations with RBC ended with installation of 2 new benches and tables

Friends of Fobney Wetland Nature Reserve: a dipping platform

BBOWT: for educational needs at Woolly Firs

Any remaining funds will go to Econet

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV): C.H reported that their Thursday group was currently in the Maidenhead area working on boardwalks, steps and handrails and the Tuesday group were working on the canal.

Oonagh's replacement Buffy would start on 28th September. Oonagh is due to return in May 2016.

TCV would have a presence at Reading Town Meal in Forbury Gardens on 3rd October. A.S will join them.

Also at the Fresher's Fair at Reading University.

TVC had - nationally - 55,000 trees for planting, both hedge and larger trees available.

Friends of Fobney Wetland Nature Reserve: J.L reported that they were removing willows from the open wetland scrape there with help from TCV, CROW, the Theale Bird Club and others, to open the space and continue the healthy growth of wild flowers there.

Health & Safety: No issues were raised

Accounts: A.S reported group had bank balance of £8,163 at the end of the financial year (31st March), £170 of which was restricted being part of a grant received from RVA for the Friends of Cemetery Junction.

Since April £849 has been spent mainly on tools and task costs (refreshments, transport, etc.) and £734 received including £319 from Bean Pole Day. A further £550 has been received for work undertaken by Newbury & Thatcham Green Gym which has been passed them.

Remaining funds are more than sufficient to cover likely expenditure during remainder of the year including renewal of insurance.

Publicity Events:

Christmas Tree Sale: 5th December starting at 9.30 this year. RBC has asked for a meeting on site beforehand. Cutting has been arranged at Wishmoor Bottom for 4th December.

Bean Pole Day: 23rd April 2016 It was thought that larger organisations e.g. Food for Families, Allotments, etc. could be contacted beforehand to ask if they would like to make an order.

Tools: The treasurer said that money was available for tools.

AOB: T.M raised concern re the theft of willow from Kings Meadow earlier this year and will contact the police.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 15th February 2016 at Prospect Park (venue to be confirmed).