

'econet'

Tuesday 10 June 03

Reading Environment Centre, Prospect Park

Present Kit Brownlee RUWG; Anne Latto FoCC; Dave Kenny; FoBW/Cav Globe; Alan Smith Southcote Globe; Katrina Peugelley BTCV; Philip Allen BeC/CROW; Judith Oliver FoCC/FoMPF; Steve Ayers FoMPF Adrian Lawson RBC.

Apologies Trish

volunteers to minute this meeting Steve Chair, Philip Minutes.

Minutes of last meeting

No action on arranging demonstrations for grass cutting machine PA to chase JL & AL

- **INSURANCE Econet & tool store insured to End of Dec 2003 Thanks to Friends Of McIlroy Park who merged with CROW to form Econet Globe Groups are insured through Tregga (paid for RBC) AL to check why not econet under the insurance.**

Other Friends of groups need to ask formally to come under Econet by letter or E Mail & contribute £50 or transfer their bank balance.

Money Philip produced a report on the finances.

Currently have balance of 520 to pay for next year's insurance due to £500 core cost Grant from RBC

Item 3 Tools

Recently purchased tools including

Hand & felling Axe, 3*21" bow saw & blades; extendible pole saw/net; 3 fencing pliers (1 at CC); 1 lump hammer; 8 loppers (2 at CC) & 8 Secators(2 at CC) 10 safety goggles and 1 wire cutter are in the main store at Prospect Park

Item 4 Events reports & updates.

Rescue 22-23/3/3 got about 1000 people involved in cleaning up most of the River & open spaces in Reading.

Mega task 5&6 /4/03 Path Laying at Clayfield Copse

20-25 people both days working up to 7 hours each managed to shift 60 tonnes of hard core to create the 350m of path required to complete the circular all weather paths on the site. As we only had a dumper truck; pick-up & trailer and wheel barrows to transport the stones there was a lot more lifting up weights - High Risk of Injuring backs compared to the previous mega path task here in 1996 when we used Early Town's mini tractor & tipping trailer.

There was not enough material to raise the path up to (or above) the level of the surrounding ground so will get flooded unless topped up.

The Path is not well used yet as the large stones are reported to be uncomfortable to walk on and the path is not on the pre-existing desire line. Adrian said these problems could have been avoided by getting advise from parks first - did Tina not do this?

Caution: This appears to be continuation of 10/6/03 minutes!

Car boot sale 26/4/03 not many people mainly 9.45 to 11.30. Econet stall took £77 from sale of pea stick & Bird/bat boxes (from Theale Bird Group) + donations from other stalls = £130 NEED other helpers & Better ADVERTISING

Woodlands Day 31/5/03 by FoCC

2-3000 people enjoyed a hot summer's day with environmental activities in the welcomed shade of the woods even though some of the guided walks had so many people on that they blocked the paths & the people at the back could not hear. Should have max. of 20. The seat in the single ladies loo could not cope with the 600 passing through the tea tent The Grant for All bid got rejected a week before the event RBC Parks Department agreed to use their events budget to step in this time **but** in future events need prior agreement if our partnership is to benefit from the Council's resources or expertise such as the community group funding advice officer.

Parks have no events planned although ran 40 events during The Queen's 40th anniversary year. Plays in the Abbey Ruins, Reading Pop Festival 23-25/8 Waterfest, Womad use Parks but are organised by other depts.

5 Work parties

Trees need weeding at Hills Meadow & Balmore Walk but FoBW may fold due to lack of Members. CROW has work planned to the end of July including a couple out at Snellsmore common but just the same two leaders + 1 or 2 + school group. FoMP with max. 5 members will continue to clear paths & scrub from the Pottery Bank in the absence of directives. FoMPF not working this summer except for surveys.

FoCC will pull ragwort next month.

Adrian plans to have a group working at Prospect Park each week including community service.

6 Planning updates.

Clayfield is not going to be given Local Nature Reserve status but this is no problem as LNR status is just a means for promoting proper management and offers no protection against the damage from Government's whims. Concern was raised over the possible annexation of Dunston to facilitate a 3rd bridge to increase traffic. Traffic will also be made worse if Prudential are allowed to build in Kennet Meadows. RUWG & golbe comment on Planning.

Item 7 Tina's replacement's role feedback on meeting of 12 May with Ben Stanesby Adrian Lawson answered questions about the new job description he created for the role of Parks & Open Spaces Development Officer. Strategic & Agenda 21 elements go back to planning department. It will be an organic job to accommodate the new person due to start mid July (subject to references) but about 50% on fostering Parks based events e.g. Healthy Walks & dialogue with other sections of society. and 50% on encouraging practical volunteer groups to work on implementing Biodiversity Action Plans in partnership with Parks Department.

8 feedback on Tree Warden meeting 13/5/3

Well attended and informed us that a tree warden scheme was just a neighbourhood watch scheme for trees with people looking out for signs of disease or damage and offering advice to owners. In Reading Council there are 7 sets of people involved in the management of trees (typical of all Councils) but Richard Simpson in Planning

2/1/03

will co-ordinate scheme.

9 Next Meeting 9/9/03 at 7.30 Prospect Park
Agenda Formal Roles Chairman, Treasurer & secretary
Grant applications