



NOTE OF PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11 December 2008

Wesley Memorial Church, Bryants Hill

Present

Susan (Chair) Rob (WPO) Jude (Treas) Kit (Memb Sec) Bryan, Phyll, Vernon, Anne, Pauline, June, David and Liz, Fabian (Cllr), Roy, Helen (minutes)

Apologies: Claire (BCC) Norman, Laura, Lindy

Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed participants to FOTH's fifth Annual General Meeting and outlined the agenda.

Vernon proposed a vote of thanks to Rob and Susan for the social event they hosted on 6 December 2008, which was enthusiastically seconded and carried.

Slide and Video Show to Report on 2008

The proceedings included a review of the year. The cumulative total of volunteer effort during the year had been over 1519 hours. Rob reminded members of the Green Flag process, scoring and the benefits that winning the award had brought to the Hill, and shared some of the positive comments from the judges. He explained how the Management Plan divides the site into 11 compartments with specified management aims. He mentioned that the Bristol Biodiversity Action Plan names Troopers Hill and recognises the importance of its lowland heath habitat in Bristol. There followed a display of an internet Slide show of a walk on Troopers Hill. Its creators were planning to make another, similar one with spoken commentary.

The meeting viewed a photographic record of the Trooping the Hill, Strawberry Feast and Music on the Hill events of 28 June 2008, which had been an amazing day for all who had participated. Other events for the year had included maintaining a presence at the Good Friday service, hosting a Geology Walk, arranging free Tai Chi sessions which had led to the establishment of classes locally, and holding a successful Dog Show.

Rob commented on the closure of the Council's Nature in the City project and the departure of Sally Oldfield. He outlined possibilities for the future funding of Local Nature Reserve Officers, 2 of whom were needed to support a proposed total of 16 LNRs. In addition, he described the past, current and future shape of the group's contacts with Bristol Council Parks personnel and other officers, and

reminded the meeting that the local Area Green Space Plans stakeholder consultation was planned to take place early in 2009.

Newsletter

The Hill newsletter had been admired by the Green Flag judges and the meeting concurred in thanking Kit for his excellent production of a worthwhile publication.

Funding

The meeting acknowledged contributions to FOTH's funds from Beeses' sponsorship and the legacy from Dundridge Park Group, which had been dedicated to an Education Fund. Money from Awards for All had paid for Trooping the Hill and the Entrance designs, whereas YANSEC contributions had funded new signs and the new entrance works.

Accounts were circulated showing balances, expenditure and assets figures. A vote of thanks to the Treasurer was proposed and carried.

Constitution

Decisions on future Committee membership for 2009 were made as follows Susan would continue as Chair, Jude as Treasurer, Helen as Secretary. Rob and Kit continued on the Committee and the meeting welcomed Bryan as a new Committee member.

Concluding remarks

Roy volunteered a few words of thanks to everyone who has kept the organisation going and the visible improvements on the Hill. He considered that FOTH had put the location on the map. Very few other groups were so advanced in their approach.

Chair announced the plans for next year and circulated the events leaflet in an advanced draft state.

The meeting viewed a video filmed on Troopers Hill by Brais Celme, accompanied by music, also viewable on the internet.