

MINUTES OF MEETING OF FRIENDS OF TROOPER'S HILL, 02/12/2003

- 1) **Present:** Rob Acton-Campbell, Susan Acton-Campbell, Carole Edwards, Sally Oldfield, Serena Parker, Liz Read, Virginia Spalding.
- 2) **Apologies Received from:** David Gladden, Val Harris, Gary Ratcliffe, Norman Spalding.
- 3) **Constitution:** Sally explained the Constitution to people who were not present at the last meeting.
The Constitution was approved by the meeting.
- 4) **Research Co-ordinator:** Carole Edwards agreed to be the Research Co-ordinator for the Group.
- 5) **Fence Mending Work Party:** This was postponed until Saturday 6th December. Sally Oldfield is unable to attend.
- 6) **Health & Safety Courses:**
Sally has been unable so far to contact anyone to do the training for us. She is hoping she will be able to organise half-day courses for those interested. Rob, Susan, Virginia and Carol expressed an interest. Serena will be able to do it if it is not at a weekend. Possible dates: 24th January, 31st January, and 21st February. Sally will let us know which dates she has arranged.

Rob has designed a disclaimer form for people to sign when they attend the working parties. It will be useful to record how many people attend and for fund-raising applications.

Path Clearing: Sally reported that pupils from the City Academy had helped to clear a path on Troopers Hill. Virginia will write to the organiser of their group thanking them for their help and informing them of future working party dates.
- 7) **Fund Raising:** Susan reported that we have no money at the moment, but we will set up a bank account for future use. Sally gave details of how other groups organised their finances, and distributed a copy of an email from the Dundridge Park group. Sally will forward this email to Val so that she can contact Bernard Merrick for advice about whether the Alliance & Leicester is the best bank to open a current and/or savings account with.
- 8) **Possible Uses of Money (if we get any):**
 - a) Mending existing benches
 - b) To erect more benches

- c) Day to day expenses of the Group (e.g. postage, paying for booking venues, etc.)
- d) Tools
- e) Signs and boards to be erected on Hill
- f) Orientation
- g) Wildlife
- h) History
- i) Information
- j) Replacing existing boards

Liz suggested contacting local secondary schools to see whether they could help with the orientation boards.

- 9) **Dog bins:** The Group expressed a desire to have dog (“poop scoop”) bins placed on the hill as soon as possible.
- 10) **Erosion of Steps:** Susan asked whether the erosion on the steps leading up from the bottom of the hill was a Health & Safety issue, and was the Council liable to repair them? Sally explained that the Council has a limited amount of money, and if the worst came to the worst might only be able to close the steps if they were dangerous. The Group asked Sally to contact the Council to ask them whether they are responsible for the steps.
The Group asked for a list showing what the Council was responsible for doing. Sally showed the Group the management plan, but this only covered conservation. Other plans e.g. site management, will have to be written in the future, and when they are available Sally will bring them to the Group.
- 11) **Grants:** Sally gave Susan a list of possible sources of grants for the Group. Susan to investigate two of these (nos. 2 and 4 on Sally’s list).
- 12) **Dawn Chorus Walk:** Sally suggested that we have an event on Trooper’s Hill. She has organised a guided dawn chorus walk. John Tully will give a talk on Thursday 22nd April at 7:30pm, and the walk will take place on Saturday 24th April at 7:00am. Sally said the combined cost would be £100.
- 13) **History Project:** Sally showed the Group a photo of Butler’s Tar Works. Carole is going to contact various people who have researched the history of Trooper’s Hill, and ask if they would like to come and talk to the Group.
- 14) **Work Party:** The next Work Party is on Saturday 10th January. It was originally decided to use this date to start clearing “Sally’s” glade, but following the work party on 5th December, it seems likely that further sessions will be needed to repair the fence.
Other Work Party ideas were to clear “the den”, and to continue litter picking.
- 15) **Web Site:** Rob said that it would be fairly simple to set up a website. Rob is going to register for us. Liz offered to help with the website.

16) **Any other Business:**

- a) Serena asked about the burning that had happened on the hill. Sally said it was probably vandalism, and hopefully because of the time of year it did not do much harm.
- b) Sally gave us a copy for the archive of an invertebrate study carried out on Trooper's Hill. Some of the things that were found were quite rare.
- c) Serena was worried that Trooper's Hill may be classified as a "brown field" site, and many of these sites are being built on. Sally answered that, as Trooper's Hill is a nature reserve, it may be a green field site.
- d) Sally reminded the Group about the Parks Forum. She will put the Group's name on the mailing list.
- e) St. George Partnership – Susan volunteered to go along and represent the Group at the next meeting on Thursday 4th December.
- f) Sally suggested that we have a regular slot on the Agenda to discuss anything new we have noticed about the Trooper's Hill site.

17) **Date and Venue of Next Meeting:** Thursday 15th January 2004 at 7.00pm at The Bristol East Allotment Pavilion, Nicholas Lane, St. George.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

NB

To save costs, we would prefer to email the Minutes where possible in future. Please let us know your email address – if you have one - at the next meeting, or before if you can.