



NOTE OF MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2005 AT WESLEY MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL, BRYANTS HILL

Present: Rob, Susan, Sally, Liz R, Kit, Helen. Apologies received from Carole, Fran, David, Liz & Alan, Val.

1 Outstanding actions: None

2 Previous minutes: Approved, with the inclusion of the date of next meeting, 22 March 2005.

3 St George Community Farm Update : Bristol East Allotment Holders voted against the proposed community farm. Fern and Hilary were looking for other premises locally and applying to Awards for All for £10,000 grant funding for a feasibility study. They intended going ahead with the proposed fête at Malvern Road Open Space on 18 June.

Rob intended to meet the allotment holders on Saturday to discuss the possibility of using a small space for a wildlife area and pond, having pedestrian-only access from Malvern Road Open Space/Troopers Hill.

Rob reported a recent planning application to build housing on vacant land between the allotments and Summerhill/Air Balloon Road. It was noted that the land in question had mature trees and was used by badgers. The meeting decided that given the possibility that it was too late to object, there would be no harm in registering FOTH's concern that the extent of the development could one day encroach on to land currently used for allotments, eradicating the buffer zone between built-up area and the LNR. Rob was meeting the resident of the house most affected by the plans on Saturday.

Action: Chair to write to the local councillor, copy to planning officials.

4 Malvern Road Open Space Update: The meeting discussed aspects of the draft questionnaire produced by the sub-group. It was decided to indicate that the exercise was supported by the City Council. A re-draft omitting the word "Family" from the heading was agreed so as not to put off single households or those having no resident children. It was also agreed to include an explanation (it helps us with applications for grants) of the request for information. The distribution area was agreed and volunteers would be sought for delivering questionnaires and counting responses.

5 Visit to John Cornwell: Rob, Carole and Susan's visit to this author of a history of the Bristol coalfield. The book contained a picture of the chimney on the corner of Crew's Hole Road and Troopers Hill where there had been a fireclay mine; coal had been mined from the Hill in earlier times. An entrance to the mine existed beneath the

houses at Butler's Walk and tunnels were known to extend under the Hill. Another mine had existed under woods adjacent to Strawberry Lane. At the foot of Strawberry Lane there had been a glass kiln, also a pottery that records show was sold in 1789. The meeting inspected maps, a section of mine railway track and a lump of glass slag from the vicinity.

Action: Rob to sort out a night for exhibiting the materials with an invitation to bring other historic evidence for display. (To be added to the events programme.)

Rob and Susan had sought permission from the owners to bring a group to view the "bath house" in Strawberry Lane. A photograph showed it once resembled a summer house or grotto.

English Heritage held a Grade II listing for both the square chimney (c1805) and the summit chimney on Troopers Hill (c1863). There had been a second engine house halfway up Troopers Hill Road.

Action: Rob to determine whether John Cornwell would agree to talk for a video recording

6 Events for 2005: The meeting inspected a new list of events. John Tully (bird identification) would also be doing an evening talk at Eastwood Farm on 12 April. The bat group was considering whether combining their event with a subsequent moth hunt would be suitable.

The meeting discussed the coinciding events for 18 June - Community Farm fête, Dog Show and Moth hunt. It was concluded that in the absence of information on the fête plans, FOTH could not decide on the appropriateness of proceeding with the dog show alongside it.

Action: Sally to establish the public liability insurance arrangements for the fête. Chair to find out what the Community Farm is planning for its fête and ask David to contact the pet shop in Hanham in relation to the Dog Show arrangements.

Susan said if Martin Maudsley turned out to be unavailable for the balloon fiesta event, she knew of another storyteller who might be approached.

7 To be passed to Gary: (In addition to the steps leading to the summit chimney from the junction of Crew's Hole Road and Troopers Hill Road, which need to be made less steep), requests for the following:

Invoice for the bench (if ready)

Fence post on Troopers Hill Road

More wood chippings at Summerhill Terrace entrance

Also report of a fire that set light to an area of gorse on the hill on 14 February.

8 Feedback and plans for work parties

Rob circulated photographs of the successful February Holm Oak eradication work. The March work party would repair fence rails and put up new signs.

9 Last of Awards for All grant: It was agreed that the remaining grant should be spent on tools, including a power drill, computer printing consumables eg. ink, toner, and possibly a portable table for the display stands.

Action: Kit and Susan to discuss need for a new table, in view of possible availability of trestles and tabletop that could fit in car.

10 SWEET application update: Sally reported that although SWEET had not rejected the application, it required some more work to establish that the proposal fitted with the overall context of the terms of grant.

11 History/Education Project progress: Sally had met Summerhill teachers to establish dates for working with the three Year 3 classes who would each be spending half a day on the LNR and half a day on the following week producing artwork in class.

Action: Kit to liaise with Sally over dates and availability for video recording. Sally to finalise arrangements with the school.

12 Future of LNR project: Sally reported on the recent positive project review, but that there was as yet no confirmation that the project would be extended beyond the autumn. Should the project end, it was likely that the work currently benefiting people and wildlife would cease to be done.

13 Parks Forum/Celebration Event: The event would take place on Saturday 5 March. Susan would be giving a presentation for a fee of £50. Sally would be presenting pictures of Troopers Hill.

Action: participants to liaise regarding content of their presentations.
Chair to invite the new Parliamentary candidate to meet FOTH.

14 Dates and venues of forthcoming meetings:

Tuesday 22 March, 7pm at the Wesleyan Memorial Chapel.

Wednesday 11 May, ----- ditto -----