

FRIENDS of TROOPERS HILL

2004 Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Meeting Held 14/12/04

Present: Carole, Fran, Rob & Susan, Helen & Kit, Liz & Alan, Sally, Maureen, Liz, Val and Gary.

Outstanding actions & Previous minutes: The minutes and actions from the November meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting in January.

Welcome and Introduction: Susan welcomed everyone to the first Friends of Troopers Hill AGM.

Virginia Spalding: Rob reported the very sad news that Virginia, the Friends of Troopers Hill Membership Secretary, had passed away on 7th December 2004. As most people present were aware Virginia had become ill shortly after her 50th Birthday in April. Virginia was a very enthusiastic supporter of the Friends of Troopers Hill and will be sadly missed. Her family have asked for donations to: St Peters Hospice, St Agnes Avenue, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2DU.

Slide and Video Show to Report on 2004: Rob presented a slide and video presentation of the year's activities and of photos taken on the hill through the year. The show included 3 video clips produced by Kit, one on the Good Friday Service, another showing the August Work Party and the third showing the Story of the Bench. The slide show covered Hill Events; The Awards for All Lottery Grant; The Action Plan; Income and Expenditure; Publicity; Work Parties; Butterfly Transects and The Story of the Bench. The show and videos were very well received. Kit's arrival at the end of this show was greeted by round of applause to show the meeting's appreciation of the videos.

As part of the presentation Rob showed a photograph of the dilapidated play area in Malvern Road Open Space followed by a further picture showing the area with the slide and swing removed. This led to discussion as to what action should be taken, Rob noted that only one response had been received from the article in the Newsletter, despite Susan having distributed it to all houses in adjacent roads. Rob expressed the view that since there appeared to be little demand for keeping the play area, then perhaps it should be removed altogether? Liz and others thought it should be kept and refurbished/replaced, Liz and Maureen agreed to meet with Susan to agree a way forward. **Susan to arrange a meeting about the play area.**

A summary of income and expenditure was also included, Val's report is attached to these minutes. This also highlights the current spending against the categories forming the Awards for All Grant. Susan noted that it had not been necessary to spend money on 1st Aid training since three regular Work Party Attendees now had qualifications through their work. **Susan to write to Awards for All regarding reallocation of this money.**

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The presentation also highlighted the application that Sally is putting together for a grant from 'SWEET' (South West England Environmental Trust).

The application includes:

- Disabled Access Gate – Malvern Road
- Disabled parking
- Disabled Access Path around the top of the hill
- New benches
- Interpretation boards
- Leaflets describing the hill, its wildlife and history
- Brown tourist signs

The meeting supported this application which Sally had previously discussed with Susan, Rob and Gary to agree details.

Review of Constitution: It was agreed that no changes should be made to the Constitution.

Elections of Officers for 2005: The following were duly elected as officers for the Friends of Troopers Hill for 2005:

- **Chair: Susan Acton-Campbell**
- **Secretary : David Gladden**
- **Membership Secretary: Kit Elliot**
- **Treasurer: Val Harris**
- **Work Party Organiser: Rob Acton-Campbell**
- **Research Co-ordinator: Carole Edwards**

In addition Helen agreed to assist David in taking minutes for any meetings where he was unable to attend.

Events for 2005: A list of possible events for 2005 was distributed for comments. There was strong support for a repeat of the Dawn Chorus walk in April (John Tully if available), a moth hunt in the summer (Ray Barnett) and a fungal foray in October (Justin Smith). **Sally to contact John, Ray and Justin.**

Helen agreed to lead a walk in May looking at the wild flowers and their uses past and present. It was agreed that a dog show should be held and it was thought that this could coincide with 'National Local Nature Reserve Week' which Sally reported was planned for 18th to 31st July. **Rob to contact Richard Fletcher.** Sally also noted that a repeat of the Bristol Festival of Nature was planned for 14th-23rd October. **Susan agreed to contact the Bristol Bat Group** to discuss a possible bat walk.

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Sally also reported on the proposed exchange visits between groups for LNRs for Bristol, South Glos and BANES. Other groups would be visiting Troopers Hill on 20th August at 10am and Rob and Susan had agreed to host a BBQ at mid-day to follow this visit. The full programme of exchange visits should be available in February.

A further history talk/social evening was also suggested, perhaps to focus coal mining.

It was agreed that an attempt would be made to finalise a programme of events at the January and February meetings.

Dates and venues of meetings to come: The first meeting of the New Year will be on Wednesday 26/1/05 7pm at the Wesleyan Memorial Chapel as previously agreed.

A further meeting will be held on Thur 24th February again at the Wesleyan Memorial Chapel if available. **Susan to confirm venue.** It was agreed that if possible all future meetings should use this venue which provided ideal facilities and was easily accessible.

Any Other Business: Carole raised the fate of the Lamb Inn on Crews Hole Road which is in a serious state of disrepair and will certainly collapse if no action is taken. The meeting agreed that **Carole should write on behalf of the group** expressing concern at the situation and to establish its ownership and listing status.

Liz reported that she had established the position of the old bathing house that was featured in David Stephenson's book. It was agreed that if possible a visit should be arranged. **Susan to use contacts in Strawberry Lane to try and establish ownership of the site and enquire about a visit.**

Vote of Thanks: Kit proposed a vote of thanks to Susan and Rob for their work in organising the AGM and throughout 2004. This was supported by all present.

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Financial Report as December 2004

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Grant	3,269.00	Consumables	18.62
Walk led by Rob	50.00	Protective Equipment and first aid	112.46
Donation for bench repair	400.00	Information and notice boards	1,220
Cash earned from refreshments at events	42.00	Room Hire	30.00
		Educational Event	80.00
		Publicity	562.81
		Tools	884.20
Total	3,761.00	Total	2,908.09

Balance as at December 2004 = £852.91

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Breakdown of Grant Income and Expenditure

Item	Original Grant (£)	Amount Spent (£)	Amount Left (£)
Tools	921.00	884.20	36.80
Protective Equipment and First Aid	428.00	112.46	315.54
Information and Notice Boards	1220.00	1220.00	0.00
Educational Event	100.00	80.00	20.00
Publicity	600.00	562.81	17.19
Total	3,269.00	2,859.47	389.53