

MINUTES OF FPBNR AGM on 16 AUGUST 2023 at 6pm at 204 Old Bath Rd, GL53 9EQ

Attendees: Hazel Bolton **HB**, Sharon Lee Sheather **SLS**, Rob Dewey **RD**, Sue King **SK**, Graham King **GK**, Duncan Siret **DS**, Chris Sturgeon **CS**, Janet Wood **JW**, Rebecca Boulton **RB**, Monica Donnelly **MD**, Morgan Woodland **MW**, Graham Evetts **GE**, Steve Kendal **SKL**
We were joined by Steve Mason **SM**, Community Parks Officer, Cheltenham Borough Council

Apologies: Andy Teague, Giles Robinson.

Minutes of AGM 2022 : Approved. Proposed by SK. Seconded MD.

Matters arising : None.

Treasurer's report:

Current recorded membership total 235

Cash in bank £2040.112 at July 2023, (£2148.28 at July 2022)

Not a great deal of activity. Best fundraiser was Apple Day. One off £15.00 life membership, so that memberships do not have to be renewed annually. Still have a database of members which has remained static. We need to try to increase funds to cover increases in insurance, materials, etc. HB said she had pursued funding – available for projects but no one will help cover insurance costs. SM will research the possibility of FPBNR coming under the Council's Umbrella insurance and will come back to us. SK mentioned talking to contractors and seeing if we could get supplies such as, wood off-cuts for step making.

Treasurer's report approved: Proposed CS, seconded DS.

Group Coordinator's report:

HB talked about some of the events that had taken place.

Apple Day was very successful -particularly with cakes and drinks. Sustainability conference, SLS reported -there was some interest. Coronation 'BIG HELP' -some interest.

Greenspace volunteers event attended by several FPBNR.

- Monthly Work parties – usually 8-12 attend. Very good relationship with Lucy Wise **LW**, Greenspace.

Not many activities have taken place in the last year.. Other events might increase our number of volunteers. LW had suggested engaging with businesses? We discussed the pros and cons of this later in the meeting. SK mentioned that reaching people via Facebook has become more difficult as it has changed its Modus Operandi and it hasn't been possible to get into Facebook for some time, so it's hard to reach people on this particular social media platform now. SM will see if he can help with Facebook and Instagram. RB explained how she was also struggling with this. SK mentioned the fake news around Hogweed. Should we try to counter this? SK suggested a true and false game on Apple Day or a poster on the Info board to quell this misinformation. RD and SK to get together to sort this.

SK said thank you to HB for her excellent work for FPBNR throughout the year. Everyone agreed.

Future events: Apple Day – RD mentioned the need for freezer space for about 15 cakes, that Pat Dewey will make. JW and SK have space and will contact RD. Apple Day will be on 29th of October between 2:00 and 4:00pm. CS and DS will set up the train again but will have a donation box. CS to book marquees, tables, chairs, etc. as last year. RD to contact David Lloyd, the Music Man. Further details regarding setup for the day will be arranged in early September, coordinated by HB.

Other events. HB asked if there was any interest in meeting up to see and listen to the Dawn course in early May? RD to talk to David Cramp and find out the day and right time to hold this event. SM mentioned that he had bat detector equipment which could be used. Some were handheld and gave out an echo. Some equipment will also tell you what type of bat has been heard. SM would be happy to come along and bring / use the equipment just for the core group of FPBNR members. GK offered to find a date and e-mail around. GK and SM to liaise.

Increasing Volunteers. We discussed the issues involved in having business people. GK said, We don't really have any suitable projects and you need someone skilled at supervising any group. We talked about aiming at younger people and feel that the website needs redesigning. RB to investigate possibilities of finding someone with tech know-how at her workplace to take this on. We use Webmaster which may not be the ideal tool. SKL will post out info about Apple Day, etc. to target a younger audience.

Election of officers:

Group Coordinator: SK proposed HB, seconded RD. Hazel Bolton confirmed as Group Coordinator for another year

Treasurer: CS proposed RD, Seconded by SK. Rob Dewey confirmed as Treasurer for another year

AOB: Janet mentioned that one of the pedestrian crossings to be introduced on Old Bath Road would be on Pilley bridge. Members were encouraged to send comments about the positioning to Highways at GCC.

SLS asked who the Exhibition boards belonged to – SK said it was Cathy Tudor CT– SLS to contact CT.

Date of next meeting to be advised in July / August 2024.

Meeting closed at 7:05.