

MINUTES OF FPBNR AGM on 30 July 2025 at 6pm at the meadow, PBNR

Attendees: Hazel Bolton **HB**, Sharon Lee Sheather **SLS**, Rob Dewey **RD**, Sue King **SK**, Janet Wood **JW**, Monica Donnelly **MD**, Morgan Woodland **MW**, Steve Kendal **SKL**, Andy Teague **AT**, Rebecca Boulton **RB**, Ali White **AW**, Steve Mason **SM**, Community Parks Officer, Cheltenham Borough Council

Apologies: Graham King **GK**, Duncan Siret **DS**, **Chris Sturgeon CS**, **Giles Robinson GR**

Minutes of AGM 2024 : Approved. Proposed by **SK**. Seconded by **RD**

Matters arising : associated items to be discussed during meeting

Treasurer's report: See copy of Accounts 2024 – 2025 previously distributed by HB. £1900 cash in the bank. RD suggested maintaining a bank balance of around £1500. Very little fundraising in last year as we did not put on an Apple Day event. Cheltenham Lottery continues to bring small contributions in. **RD** asked whether we need to try to increase funds to cover increases in insurance, our main expenditure. Treasurer's report approved: Proposed by **AT**, seconded by **SK**.

Graham King's Management Report : In GK's absence, SK distributed hard copies and HB read out the pertinent points with SK assistance. The report covered work managing the trees in the nature reserve, Biodiversity Glades, coppicing, paths, further ideas – veteranising, iron railings, information board.

Action: SK to send electronic copy of report to SLS. Friends can request a digital copy of GK's report.

Group coordinators report: **HB** thanked everyone for their help and support, with special mention of **GK, SK, RD, SLS**, and **AT** for their focused work across their specialisms. **HB** talked about promoting the monthly Working Parties to attract new volunteers, on Facebook - SK is doing this. HB referred to the Volunteers' Recognition event held every 2 years, which was attended by several members and was an enjoyable event. There was interest from a nationwide group called Freshwater Fish in doing a survey of the pond life. Plans to redevelop the All-weather pitch at Old Pats are of no immediate concern to FPBNR. HB discussed the 'old bridge' near the orchard and the steps down from Old Bath Road at Pilley Bridge needing attention. SM talked about the implications and difficulties of building an accessible pathway from Old Bath Road so attention returned to repairing and reprofiling the steps for safety and accessibility. HB is going to a meeting of a new Template Partnership with the idea of bringing all the groups of Friends of nature reserves together under 1 umbrella. The issue of insurance may well be resolved and CBC staff may be able to step back from attending every working party and give the individual groups more autonomy.

Nearly 90 volunteer hours have been recorded made up of an average of 7-8 people turning up to Working Parties, admin – dealing with emails, messages etc. SKL reminded the team that we have arrived on Trip Advisor this year.

SK mentioned antisocial behaviour under the bridge and the concern that the bricks may be damaged by fire compromising the safety of the bridge. SM suggested calling the Police about the antisocial behaviour and he would take up the issue of the bridge with Highways. (This issue was also raised under AOB.)

Election of Officers:

Treasurer: RD happy to continue - Proposed by **AT**, seconded by **AW**

Group Coordinator: HB said she was prepared to continue for another 3 years, as **SKL** had suggested we introduce a fixed term of 3 years at the previous AGM and members had agreed. Proposed by **MD**, seconded by **RD**.

Future events: The idea of holding a Blossom Day event, possibly in conjunction with Friends at Weavers Field next April was discussed. We could raise funds by having a cake stall, Raffle or Tombola. Another Bat Walk led by **SM** - provisional date Tuesday 2nd September at 8pm **SM** to confirm. Additional benches in the Forest School and by the information board in the meadow were discussed and we have been encouraged to apply for a local parish grant to pay for this. Action: SKL will look further into this. HB keen to support new benches.

AOB: SKL has written to GCC regarding marker signs for pathways leading to PBNR. Request acknowledged. They have a service level agreement for 5-10 days . Awaiting reply. SLK also suggested having a running advert on our noticeboards for volunteers' mornings on the first Saturday of every month- what is involved, bring some gloves, secuteers etc when other posters weren't required. Action: RD to construct.

Meeting closed at 7:14. Date of next meeting to be advised – will be in July / August 2026.

Members showed their appreciation to HB by a round of applause and thanked her for the delicious cake.