

**Minutes of the Friends of Badock's Wood Annual General Meeting
held on 26th March 2019 at the Greenway Centre, Southmead**



Present & apologies recorded separately

1. Approval of Minutes of 2018 AGM

Proposed Martin Firth, Seconded Graham Mullen.

The minutes were approved

Proposed Linda Wilson, Seconded Graham Mullen

The minutes were approved

2. Chair's Report

Tony West presented the Chair's report. He highlighted:

- The work of the Friends Group – from litter picking to events – as reasons for so many people enjoying the wood and he thanked everyone who contributed.
- That the work of the litter pickers had reduced the amount of litter in the wood
- The successful Community Routes Bid to the Co-op Community Fund which provides £5000 which would improve access and signage
- That the Council was planning repairs of the riverbank where the water pipe had been exposed.
- That Richard Bland, a long standing Friend and expert on birds and plants who had led many successful walks in the wood and trained the bird monitoring group had sadly passed away.
- That Geoff Perrett had moved on from being treasurer and that Martin Firth had taken over as treasurer
- His thanks to everyone who has contributed to the group and to Frances in particular.

3. Treasurer's Report

After a difficult year dealing with Lloyds Bank who had lost our records and no longer recognised our signatories, the Treasurer had finally got the bank to recognise our account and agree to new signatories. This was particularly hard work and the Treasurer was thanked for his perseverance.

There had been little financial activity during the year. The main income was from donations at walks and the main expenditure was room hire.

The balance as of 28th Feb 2019 was £5,276 of which approximately half was committed to specific projects.

The accounts were distributed at the meeting for inspection. Copies available from the Secretary.

4. Management Plan

Linda Wilson updated on the production of the management plan. This would be completed later in 2019.

She noted that the Green Man sculpture has been vandalised but that whilst the tree was safe there was no remedial action that could be taken to repair him.

She noted that there was increased tree cutting and making of fires in the wood and encouraged everyone to challenge people who were doing this (if it was safe to do so). It was noted that the Forest School does have permission to use a storm kettle with straw/twigs.

She noted that the Council's funds were limited but were still working to maintain and improve the wood. For example putting back the interpretation board by the pond. It was noted that the Council appreciated the work of the Friends Group and were responsive to the issues which the Friends raise – based on the management plan or ad hoc issues.

The long term concern regarding erosion of the river banks and footpaths has been raised with the Council again and it was hoped that funding might be prioritised in the coming financial year. The meeting resolved that the Secretary should write to the Council's Parks Department to request this be given high priority this year to ensure the protection of the water pipe and prevention of the separation of the bridge from the Triangle due to erosion. Specific areas of footpath such as by the Wessex water manhole along the path by the Trym were also flagged as urgent and a hazard.

Action: Secretary

5. Any other reports

Bird Group.

Roger Moses reported that the group had restarted the bird surveys and that a wide range of breeding and wintering birds are recorded in the wood. The group is doing bird song recognition training and anyone wanting to join should contact Roger via the Bird Group email address - fobwbird@yahoo.co.uk

The list of birds seen last year is included in the AGM papers and numbered over 40 species. He noted that a new species – Brambling – had been recorded last month.

Litter Picking.

Clare Bishop reported that the next litter pick would be 6th April.

She reported that the group had been working with SusWoT – Sustainable Westbury on Trym – who were litter picking around WoT and along the River Trym and were collecting very large amounts of litter from the river.

Members asked what they should do if they see large items, such as a shopping trolley. It was explained that this could be reported to the Council via their website, or failing that they could report to the Secretary or the Litter Pick Co-ordinator.

To get involved in the litter pick group contact fobwlitter@yahoo.co.uk

6. Approval of Amended Constitution

This was an error on the agenda having been erroneously left on from the previous year when an updated constitution had been approved. So was not discussed.

7. Election of Officers

The Chair invited nominations from the meeting. Existing officers were willing to stand and no other nominations were received. Since there was no opposition it was proposed that the officers were voted upon en-bloc.

Proposed by Graham Mullen and Seconded by Roger Moses.

The officers were duly elected.

8. Confirmation of Co-optees

Tony West listed the people as per the Agenda. No objections were raised.