



FRIENDS OF RIDGE WOOD

Informal Meeting

Start time: 7.30pm

Tuesday 17th May 2022
Badminton Rd Office, Yate

PRESENT: Geoff Millard (treasurer)
Richard Aston (SGC)
Emma Morrison (publicity)
Dianne Millard
Sarah Hardcastle
Roger Wilkins
Emma Warlock

APOLOGIES David Barlow, Stephen Warlock

Tonight's meeting chaired by Richard

1. **Introductions / apologies**
2. **Minutes / matters arising from last meeting**

RA provided verbal summary of last on-line group meeting from January 2022

Eventbrite - All agreed there is no longer a need for eventbrite bookings for work mornings.

Spring Bird Walk all sorted. 11 adults / 2 children booked on Eventbrite however people can turn up on night. RA to provide a risk assessment.

Annual General Meeting

3. **Woodland Report for Year 2021-22**

- Group remained constituted / Volunteer Agreement in place
- Woodland work mornings held through September to April 2022 (Feb/March cancelled due to high winds and rain).
- Hedge planting in front of fence.
- Group has undertaken individual litter picks. Big thanks to Edward

- Woodland work this year completed by South Gloucestershire council centred on strimming over the top wildflower area (raked off by group in April 22), making dangerous trees safe. 2 large leaning ash trees were removed where overhanging path / leaning to houses in Melrose Close.
- Hedge laying session for the hedge in 'The Field' cancelled. Attempt to link to Hedgerow Hero's project in South Glos this coming winter 2022/23
- Gate at Jubilee Gardens fell apart. Repair booked for week 16th May 22.
- SGC retain overall responsibility for managing the woodland.
- Hansons have undertaken dangerous tree survey / include impacts of Ash Die Back – results awaited. Implications could be significant re: Ash Die Back

5. Treasures Report

Geoff circulated Treasurer's reports for the last two years. It was noted that Waitrose donation was £308 in 2019 which was most welcome.

Group currently has a balance of £277.22.

Everyone thanked Geoff for his work in keeping our financial books to date and ship shape.

6. Secretary / Web master reports

Roger reported that group mailing list has saw several new people sign up. Mailing list was reviewed and updated following GDPR changes.

Emma reported approx. 500 follow the Friends group Facebook page.

Everyone thanked Roger for his work in keeping our contacts up to date and for dealing with Eventbright.

Webmaster Report provided by David. Everyone Grateful to David for his ongoing management of the web page as it is an important platform for sharing information.

David has flagged up problems with the web page managing the contents management system which enables us to update the web page. It needs to correct all the coding to return the site to how it used to be and to future proof it. Options are:

- (a) Bringing existing site up to date
- (b) Creating a new site and porting in the history, geology etc from current site. Including a new CMS to enable our updates.

David suspects that option (b) would be more economical

Richard has asked SGC ICT for any advice on this however suspects as it is an external website the council's corporate ICT service will not be able to help.

Emma (W) has offered to look at this with her sister who may be able to advise on the options available. RA to send information to Emma.

Depending on costs the group may have to look for grant funding to get the website updated?

7. Nominations for the following posts are now welcomed:

Chair: Richard nominated / seconded all

Vice-Chair: Emma (W) nominated, seconded by all

Treasurer: Geoff (confirmed offer to re-stand / re-elected)

Secretary: Roger (confirmed offer to re-stand / re-elected)

Webmster: David B offered to continue

Social Media: Emma continue to look after Facebook

Remainder of meeting will be a regular Friends of Ridge Wood meeting

8. Activities for 2022 / Winter work programme:

Provisional winter dates agreed:-

September 25th

October 23rd

November 27th

January 22nd

Works in line with site management plan

Hedge laying – Hedgerow Hero's Project opportunity. Richard updated the group and confirmed the hedge in the field off the main path through the woodland would be ideal for a hedge laying session. this would probably be an all day session and the idea is to put the hedgerow forward as part of the hedgerow heroes project. More details to follow soon.

9. AOB

RA Confirmed jubilee gardens gates to be repaired. and also aware of problem with bolt on Quarry Rd entrance gate and has asked contractors to look at this too.

TCV Grant available to groups for initiatives held during the great Big Green Week - part of alliance to raise awareness of climate change and nature crisis. group discussed possible options for an event or tie in with work morning on 25th September.

Tool Sharpening – Geoff Raised as tools with blades have become blunt. agreed to approach men in sheds project as to whether they would be interested in tool sharpening.

Greenways Rd sign – RA has put into programme for a replacement however will come down to us and when budget is available.

10. Date of next meeting

21st September 2022

7pm

Badminton Road Offices