



# FRIENDS OF RIDGE WOOD

## Informal Meeting

Virtual Meeting over Internet

Start time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

PRESENT: Geoff Millard (treasurer)  
Richard Aston (SGC)  
Emma Morrison (publicity)  
Dianne Millard  
Sarah Hardcastle  
Emma Worlock  
Stephen Worlock  
Bob Evans  
Jill Hows (vice chair)

APOLOGIES: David Barlow (secretary / webmaster)  
Pauline Wilson

Tonight's meeting chaired by Richard

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

RA provided verbal summary of last On-line meeting from October – mainly covered arrangements for our Oct/Nov work mornings

- 3. AGM – Deferred to May 2021**

Proposal to defer AGM for full year to May 2021. Many South Glos Friends groups have done this by agreement as most not meeting / not active during Covid.

RA asked for views on this proposal. All present in agreement so group to continue as present through to May 2021 when full AGM will be held. Group remains un-constituted.

#### **4. Insurance**

Group insurance in place to February 2020. Will need to be renewed before Feb work day. Bank balance has enough for this but only just.

Going forward – group has two options:

- If constituted group can sign up to a SGC volunteers agreement and insurance cover will be provided against agreed works.
- If not constituted group will have to cover annual insurance cover payment.

Funding – option to apply for SGC Member Awarded Funding (MAF) to cover insurance and web site hosting charge. This would be a straight forward option but to apply for MAF group will need to be constituted. This is a requirement of most grant funders.

#### **5. Ash Die Back**

RA updated the group, SGC has been surveying / identifying trees affected by ash die back and taking action where safety is a concern. Ridge Wood had two large ash trees on the residential boundary with Dorset Way. These have now been felled.

Bob asked about tree planting / replacements in this area. RA agreed an option to look at with planting appropriate species.

#### **6. Yate Master Planning**

Link here <https://yatefuture.com/index.php>

RA urged all to look at this. It is a Yate focused plan however comments raised about wider area

So far a consultation exercise – more development of proposals to take place and a full proposals document to be published in the spring.

Pauline Wilson raised comments about Ridge Wood and green access routes in the area / link to quarry. RA has raised comments in terms of the River Frome corridor through Yate and impact on ecology and habitat as area has developed.

#### **7. New Volunteer Groups coordinator Post – Elinor Kershaw**

Elinor Kershaw is our new SGC Volunteer Groups Co-ordinator. Elinor will be supporting groups, arranging volunteer agreements, training for groups, recording hours, First aid etc. Our aim is to develop our volunteer groups support network and HIVE on-line volunteers resource.

## 8. Winter work programme

Group confirmed arrangements for 6<sup>th</sup> December work morning. RA to secure additional sanitiser resources and provide extra tools to reduce need to share tools.

Meet at Quarry Rd entrance at 10am – socially distanced!

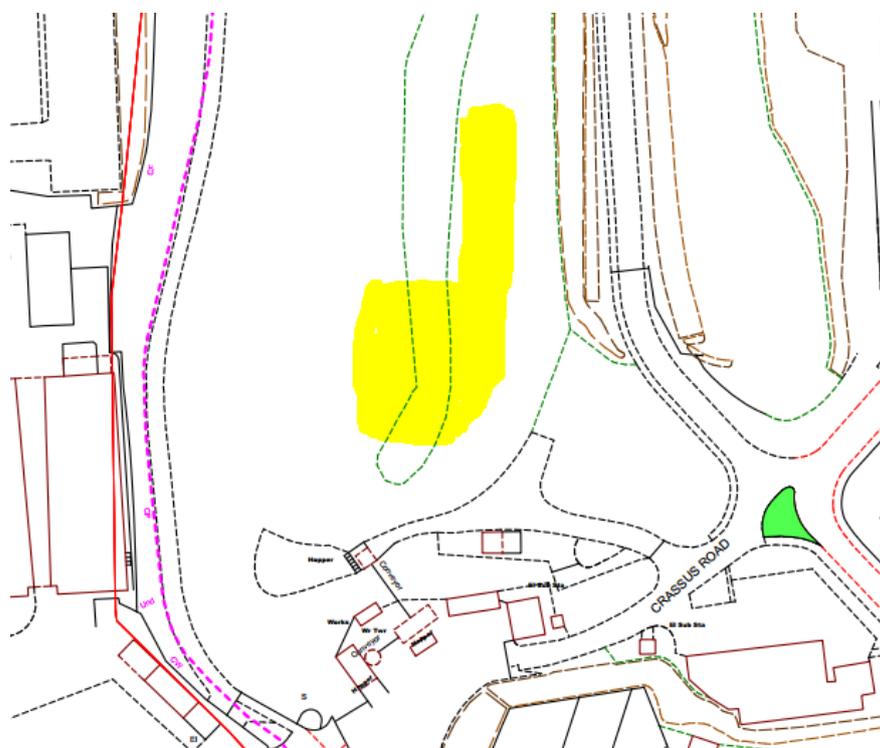
RA to email if any last minute Covid guidance changes

RA provided a summary of tasks for forthcoming work mornings as follows:-

**Nature Reserve Signs:** clear back any growth around the signs and oil when weather is dry/warmer

### **Grassland area:**

Grassy glade at south of ridge wood needs to be cut and raked off. A big job over several work mornings. Needed to encourage the small population of native limestone flora to be found here. Scrub (blackthorn, ash regeneration etc) will be cleared / bramble/everything removed and stacked to help ensure the soil is not enriched. Rake arisings to suitable location to side of area – probably not best to leave near fire site as could be used for fire!



**Tools:** Loppers, bow saws, slashers, rakes, pruning saws, good gloves

We can split into two groups of six socially distanced in this area.

If needed a group can also work at the Dorset Way end of the woodland managing scrub regeneration in the wildflower areas

Dates for upcoming work mornings agreed as follows:

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April

EM – previously raised need to improve Greenways Road entrance - needs new fence and suggested also hedge planting. RA to sort fencing and hedge planting can be done by the group.

Action: RA, All (attending work mornings when possible)

Hedge laying - RA suggested this can be a specific task in the new year – will look at getting a hedge layer to run the session. (Note that this would be at least a full half day / longer day session.)

## **9. Future Planning for Group**

May AGM – will need to invite nominations for group positions in new year – allow plenty of notice. Not a big job! Appointing a replacement chair still needed.

## **10. AOB**

Web site – David happy to continue with web site but not the group email contact list. Sarah to cover this in the short term but asked for help with this / a volunteer to take on going forward.

## **11. Date of Next meeting**

**March/April (for before AGM) Date TBC**