



Bristol Tree forum Committee Meeting Minutes Tue 12 Sept 2023 19:00 - 21:00 Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre

Mark Ashdown (Chair), Stephanie French (tree champion coordinator), Dougal Matthews, Vassili Papastavrou (Secretary) Danica Priest, Jim Smith (Vice Chair and (tree champion coordinator); and tree champions Rob Griffiths, Julian Noble and Anne Silber

Apologies: John Tarlton and Chris Wallace.

Before the meeting Stephanie kindly took several committee members for brief tours of some of the amazing trees in Stoke Lodge (new and old).

1. Next meeting date and location

The next meeting will be the AGM in the first week in November (Probably Monday 6th) Dougal has asked Councillor Andrew Varney to book a room in City Hall. We will approach Tim Foster as a speaker. As a part of the AGM planning, we will all provide items for Mark to include in his summary report of what has happened over the year.

2. Reports from officers

John Tarlton reported by email that there have been no transactions since the previous committee meeting, and our balance remains at £1549.47. This is well below our previous level of funds which hovered around the £3000 to £3500 level.

At the previous meeting we agreed that we should have a fund raising campaign, and that members would help compile a list of all those useful things BTF do to promote trees, working with the public and campaign groups, and expenses that we incur in the process.

3. Tree Champions

There was a short discussion prompted by Chris's written submission of his website work to support tree champions (distributed in hard copy to those at the meeting). Dougal will email the current list to request a response to confirm interest and then send out an email to let them know who in the committee can provide expertise on particular issues. We will also ask whether they want a planning workshop. Jim will check which TCs would like to borrow our banners. The tree Champion Sub-Committee (Jim, Stephanie, Dougal and Chris) hopes to meet to take these items forward.

4. Discussion regarding the Bristol Local Planning Authority

Following quite a number of concerns regarding the operation of the Bristol Local Planning Authority, a draft paper was prepared which was discussed in some detail. The Committee supported the document. Amendments were taken on board and three additional items added. A final version will now be completed.

5. Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy for Bristol

The BTF was not involved in the preparation of the strategy and the eighteen principles



we proposed seem to have been ignored. Our requests for meetings with BCC to discuss the strategy were rejected. The second draft will come before the Scrutiny Commission on 14th September 2023. The BTF submitted a statement to the Scrutiny Commission. There appears to be no intention to integrate this strategy into the Local Plan, instead, it will be adopted through the 'One City Partnership' (Version 3.1 of the draft is available [here](#)).

6. Major Planning applications

Hengrove Park: Mark has noticed some Section 106 payments for allotments and Hengrove Mounds that will need to be allocated. The BTF has engaged with the Yew tree Farm Cemetery Extension which will threaten wood pasture, at least one veteran tree and ancient ditched hedgerows. The replacement trees on the Hartcliffe Way recycling Plant have died.

7. Local Plan update

The first stage was in 2019 and the next consultation was in 2022. BTF responded with detailed comments but did not get any feedback. The next iteration is likely to come out very soon and regardless of its quality there will be pressure to adopt it. It will define the planning landscape for the next decade.

8. Any Other Business

Jim has distributed leaflets into Sparks and a number of other locations. Jim reported back from the Festival of Nature which was a success. He will start the process of asking to be included in the 2024 event. Jim would still like help preparing a talk for the Central library.



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris Wallace**

Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2023 at 09:47

Subject: Tree champions

To: xxx

I won't be able to get to the next BTF meeting, being in Scotland at the time.

I promised to send Dougal a status report on the website work to support TCs prior to any reconvened meeting of the TCs. It is attached in case the issue is on the agenda.

Current web work on tree champions

1. A section of our website has been created to provide support for Tree Champions. This is still in embryonic form and awaits documents which guide TCs and other visitors to the website. <https://bristoltrees.space/trees/TCs/tc-info.xq>. Click on the headings to see the current guidance and other links.
2. Stephanie's guidance notes on planning are currently Word documents converted to PDF for the website. CW is currently working through these to convert to HTML documents for better incorporation into the website.
3. The list of activities TCs has been expanded from planning, street intelligence and tree sponsorship to other activities and this list might be enlarged further, for example to leading tree walks.
4. A database file lists all TCs including committee members, their ward affiliations and email addresses. This database is not currently automatically aligned with the Mailchimp listing.
5. TCs are included in the ward mapping. <https://bristoltrees.space/trees/wards/ward-info.xq?mode=map&layer=0> presents the number of TCs per ward (derived from the table in section 4). The names of those TCs who have agreed to have their names visible are also shown.
6. An email facility has been implemented and tested and awaits agreement to put into use. It is not intended that email addresses would be visible on the website but they would be used to allow visitors to send an email to the TCs in a ward. This facility is subject to agreement.
7. A form has been implemented to allow a TC to update the information we hold about them, gain their agreement or otherwise on the use of their name and email and to solicit further information on their interests.
8. Potentially any TC could have their own page on the website.
9. As a separate facility for TCs, it might be good to have a WhatsApp group open to all TCs. There would be some overlap with the current BTF group of course.

Chris

