



Bristol Tree Forum Committee meeting Monday 3rd July 2023

Present: Mark Ashdown (Chair), Stephanie French, Jim Smith, Dougal Matthews, Rob Griffin, John Tarlton (Treasurer and substitute Secretary), Angela Truell (Tree Champion), Simon Bishop (BBC Wildlife Magazine)

Apologies: Vassili Papastavrou (Secretary), Chris Wallace (Website), Sean Harding. In the absence of the Secretary, John agreed to take notes.

1. Reports from Officers & Committee Members

Treasurers report: John reported that there has been expenditure of £302.89 on information regarding SNCIs (BCC), new banners (Simon) and Web site costs (Mark). There have been donations totaling £1,285 relating to payment of legal fees following the Brislington Meadows appeal. The current balance is £4,544.09.

As part of the Brislington Meadows campaign, Mark personally committed to paying the legal fees of £3,000 in the expectation that sufficient funds would be raised by the campaign group. Unfortunately, following failure of the campaign, insufficient funds (£1,285) were donated to cover the costs. John proposed that the deficit (£1,715) should be paid from the BTF account, on condition that a concerted fundraising campaign is instigated. Stephanie formally proposed the motion and Dougal seconded. This was unanimously agreed by the committee.

Committee members agreed that they will contribute to a list of BTF activities and costs as part of the fundraising campaign.

Secretary's report: There was no Secretary's report due to the absence of the Secretary.

Chairs report: is mostly incorporated into the agenda items.

Mark has been nominated for the "BBC Radio Bristol Make a Difference" environmental award.

Mark and John are due to meet with BCC officers on the 13 July to discuss the BTRS. Stephanie could not make the meeting.

Dougal said that BCC will be launching a consultation on the proposal to dedicate 30% of the area of Bristol to nature management. John commented that it is unclear how street trees would contribute to this.

Web Services Report: A written report was provided by Chris, outlining support provided to Tree Champions.

Stephanie's Report: The planning module has several failed links as BCC has changed this. Chris is looking into this.

Begbrook Nursing Home in Frome Valley, Frenchay are proposing a development in which trees will be lost. This is in pre-planning process. We discussed whether it is best to keep our powder dry for the committee phase, or to use the pre-application process to steer the application in the right direction. Stephanie will object in any case.

We will repeat our objections to the Station Road application, which remains largely unchanged following committee refusal being upheld at appeal.

Rob Griffin's report: There is a proposed development in North Street, currently a nursing home. The periphery of the site is wooded, and the proposal is to clear of all trees.

Bedminster Green replacement trees on the roundabout have died.

Ash trees on Commercial Road have now been felled under Section 211.

Dougal's report: He (and Jim) have been asked to do a stand at the Knowle West.

Festival. It was suggested that having something visible for the fundraiser would be useful.



Yew Tree Farm report: Richard Eddy has (with Mark's help) submitted a question for full council asking why the misinformation provided in the hedge removal proposal is not sufficient to disqualify the application. Bristol Crematorium is proposing to encroach on the farm from the other end.

Local Plan Report: The latest LP will be published in late Summer. There was discussion on the lack of protection for current green spaces, and existing trees.

Jim's Report: He represented BTF at the Festival of Nature. Had some fruitful discussions with the Forest of Avon Trust representative, who seemed to be unaware of the BTF! Jim circulated a leaflet proposing a new law of "Ecoside".

2. AOB

The Tree Champions sub-committee is unlikely to sit for a while.

Congratulations to Stephanie for the decision to turn Stoke Lodge into a Village Green

There will be a new iteration of the NPPF in early Autumn. One of the proposals is that all new streets "should" be tree-lined.

The BNG elements of the Environment Act 2021 comes into full effect in November.

Bristol Zoo Gardens. The Secretary of State will call this in.

Next Meeting: Proposed for Tuesday 5 September; venue TBC but perhaps Stoke Lodge.