



Minutes of BTF Meeting Monday 03 June 2024

Venue

The meeting took place at 7 pm on Monday 3rd June in the Redland Church Hall, Redland Green

Those present:

Mark Ashdown, Chair. Jim Smith, Vice Chair, Chris Wallace, Webmaster and Tree Champion Coordinator, Stephanie French, (TC & Planning), Susan Holden, Paul Jackson, Louise Banbury, Luke Cooper.

Apologies

John Tarlton, Treasurer. Vassili Papastavrou, Secretary. Sean Harding, Arborist. Angela Truell, TC.

Date and Place of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd September - TBD.

Progress on Action Points from last Meeting (10th April)

1. Public Liability Insurance: Zurich Municipal suggested, which is obtainable through our membership of the group "Trust Conservation Volunteers. "
2. Date for AGM: As the next meeting is September the AGM will be in November. Presumably in the City Hall.
3. Contact with FoAT for "share" of table at the Festival of Nature: This had not gone well
4. Document study ahead of production of Constitution: Some comments had been received. There is a small sub-group filling in the details and a revised draft will be circulated ahead of the November meeting. ? Item for Agenda for September meeting. (see below)
5. Subscription: See below.

Reports from Officers:

1. Treasurer.

See Treasurer's report attached. In essence we need more money per year than we are receiving.

In the absence of the Treasurer there followed a general discussion. We are reluctant to ask for a subscription from members.



Maybe we ought to charge for the “free” trees, or ask for donations from those who receive them.

Does anyone know how to apply for grants? In order to apply for grants we do need our new Constitution adopted, together with the accompanying policies in place (see below).

Might we run guided walks and charge for them? To do this we need to adopt our Safety Policy.

2. Vice Chair.

The effort to be involved directly in the Festival of Nature had failed. Jim did attend the event and managed to talk to several different concerns, including the Zoo site developer. He gave out our leaflets.

The local effort to plant memorial trees for the two murdered boys in South Bristol continues, albeit slowly. It is hoped they will be planted next season.

3. Webmaster and TC Coordinator.

Chris’ meeting with Richard Ennion had been a friendly one, but so far there has been no more progress. Chris is keen that BCC should offer safety training for TCs so that we can work towards assisting BCC with managing Street Trees.

Maybe some Councillors could help us to get this training from BCC.

Mark reported that the BTF is mentioned several times in the as yet unpublished Tree Strategy as being a possible help for BCC, but BCC seems reluctant to facilitate this.

We should start our own training by writing some advice leaflets for TCs on Street Tree problems. Could Sean make a start on that?

Chris has developed a Planning Awareness Centre on the Trees of Bristol website to help TCs see what might be involved in commenting on planning issues that affect trees. A method by which a TC could ask for help with a planning query directly from BTF needs to be developed.

The WhatsApp group can be used for this purpose.

4. Chair

Mark continues to do work on the major planning applications.

Another large piece of work is to do with the Draft Constitution, the Safeguarding Policy, the Procedure for dealing with Incidents, and the BTF Code of Conduct.



Without all of these in place we cannot apply for grants, we cannot lead walks and we cannot work on trees.

We can be an unregistered charity as our turnover is less than £5000 pa. We need to answer the questions about the number for a quorum, the rules for forming a Committee etc.

Newsletter:

Our first Newsletter is now very close to being ready for publication. Louise will send it to John, Sean, Jim and Stephanie for comment.

There are now 300 people on our contact list for its distribution (Mailchimp).

Louise to make a start on the next one. Articles gratefully received. Stephanie will write one such on the Cedar of Lebanon Tree Sculpture on Stoke Lodge.

Mark hopes it will raise the BTF profile.

National Park City:

Paul told us a bit about this new idea - to name a City as a National Park. Adelaide and London have been named as such. Might Bristol be another?

It seems a bit premature. Paul will keep us informed. He might write something for the Newsletter.

St Bernadette's Rugby Club:

There is a possibility that St Bernadette's Rugby Club have erroneously acquired land beyond the red line of a current planning application, and have cleared some trees on the land, which could in that case be contrary to regulation. Luke has informed his local Councillors about this but because of the recent post-election changes this might have to be done all over again. Should there be a complaint to Planning Enforcement?

Meeting ended 8.40 pm.