

## **NOTE OF MEETING**

**Thursday, 1st December 2022, 7.15 – 9 pm**

**Online Zoom Meeting**

Attendees: Susan, Rob, Adam, Rosie, Freya, Rod, Margaret, Alex

Apologies: Fabian

### **1. Approve October Minutes**

Approved.

### **2. Projects**

#### **a. Nature conservation**

Friends of Troopers Hill have been awarded a £5,000 Climate and Ecological Community grant from Bristol City Council to remove gorse and scrub to help maintain biodiversity during this winter and next. Bristol City Council will place the order with Green Mantle who have worked on Troopers Hill before. The first winter's works will be completed before bird nesting starts in the spring.

#### **b. Flag replacement**

There is now one spare flag to use after replacing the flag in October by the Green Bank entrance from Troopers Hill Road. Unless new flags are purchased, there will be none to use in around two years.

A donation of £25 has been received towards new flags. When buying new flags, two or more are purchased there are spares. Two new flags cost £96. Susan will share on social media the need for donations if people want to help towards new flags. Rod noted this should be added to the website.

The flagpole is getting old and may need replacing or removal in the future.

### **3. Nature Conservation work on Troopers Hill**

#### **a. Nature conservation work parties**

Summary of recent work parties:

- 20<sup>th</sup> October – Replaced flag and bramble clearance around the flagpole area.
- 12<sup>th</sup> November – Saplings along the top edge of the gully cleared.
- 19<sup>th</sup> November – A group led by Dom cleared an area of grassland.
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – A corporate work party with the Environment Agency cleared

scrub, saplings, and broom from the heather. The Pied Horse pub kindly provided toilet facilities. The group gave a generous donation towards Troopers Hill.

**b. Winter works**

Susan will use the management plan to create a list of work required over the winter for each compartment which she will share with the Parks team at Bristol City Council.

**4. Troopers Hill Survey – 20 years on**

Susan wanted to thank everyone who helped deliver the 2000 flyers to local homes, which she believed generated most of the 211 responses received.

The original survey completed 20 years ago led to the formation of the Friends of Troopers Hill group and has guided everything that has been done since.

The 2022 survey has closed. The results are being reviewed and prepared for sharing.

**5. Events**

**a. Drop in Gazebo 16th October 2022**

The drop-in gazebo was set up so people could talk with Friends of Troopers Hill while passing by on Troopers Hill field.

Only a few people dropped by on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Those who did were very friendly, and one person handed over some photos of portraits we had not seen before of John Emra (vicar of St George 1809 – 1842) and his wife, Elizabeth Baston Emra.

**b. Proposed events and meeting dates for 2023**

2023 dates agreed: February 9<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup> for the AGM.

Meetings will be mixed between in-person and remote. The AGM and two meetings will be in-person at St Aidan's Hall, which will cost £30 each time for hire.

Events to be planned for next year include:

- Conservation work parties – Continuing the process where people book
- Lichen walk with Dr David Hill in March
- Stargazing with the Bristol Astronomical Society between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of March
- Fungi Foray
- Avon Valley walk led by Rob on May 7<sup>th</sup>
- Moth Night led by Michael Malay if funding found
- Wildflower walk led by Susan in July
- 20-year picnic celebration in July for all who have significantly supported Troopers

Hill.

- Drop in Gazebos – Three to be arranged, one in July combined with a guided walk.
- Bugs and Beasties event in August during the Bristol Balloon festival.
- Bristol Astronomical Society – Solar observations.

## **6. Networking**

### **a. Bristol City Council budgets proposal**

Consultation has started on the £45M budget cut, which proposed reducing the Parks team funding by £1.5M yearly, a reduction of 25%. If implemented this will affect how often the parks team can visit to complete work on Troopers Hill and make contacting them more difficult. It is also likely to affect regular services such as bin emptying, grass cutting etc.

More information has been shared on the Bristol Parks Forum website with details about how people can respond to raise their concerns. Rob asked for support from people to respond, as the more people who do, the higher-up the agenda the concerns will be raised.

### **b. Bristol City Council local plan review**

In 2019, consultation was undertaken to decide which spaces should be listed as protected green spaces, which Troopers Hill was included in. Consultation has started this week on the local plan review, where we expect Troopers Hill to remain protected. The Parks Forum group are due to be reviewing the documents shortly.

## **7. St George Strollers**

Many people continue to join the walks, which include a 3-mile walk twice a month and a 30-minute walk once a month.

## **8. AGM**

### **a. Any proposed changes to the constitution**

No requests for changes

### **b. Accounts for the year**

Summary:

2022 started with total funds of £5,425 of which £1,800 was a donation for a bench which was installed during this year.

Currently there is

- £500.12 held for the St George Strollers,
- £5,000 of grant funding to carry out nature conservation work on Troopers Hill over this

winter and next winter

- £772.75 of funding for children's activities
  - £304.26 for nature conservation
  - £25 as a donation for a new flag
- and £1,213.09 in our general fund.

**c. Elections**

Susan was elected and will continue as chair. Margaret will continue as Treasurer, and Adam will continue as Secretary.

Mali wishes to stand down from the committee.

Susan, Margaret, Adam, Freya, Rob, Rod, and Richard form the 2023 committee.

**d. Budget for 2023**

Summary:

- As of November 2022, there are £7,814 in total funds available.
- 2023 includes £3,000 spend to clear gorse in the winter (from the 2022 £5K grant).
- 2023 is projected to close with total funds of £3,084, £683 in the general fund.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be from 7.15-9 pm on Thursday, 9th February 2023 via Zoom.