

NOTE OF MEETING

Thursday, 26th May 2022, 7.15 – 9 pm

Online Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Susan, Adam, Rod, Rosie, Rob, Margaret, Freya, Dominic, Steph, Elaine

Apologies: Cllr Fabian Breckels

1. Approve March Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

2. Projects

a. Path to Troopers Hill chimney from Troopers Hill Field

The work to re-surface the path is complete. The benches were re-fitted yesterday, and the contractors finished filling to the wooden edging today.

We were only expecting the re-surfacing to go up to the first bench; however, the contractors went further which is a bonus. Rob and Susan will send a thank-you note to Bristol Parks.

b. Conservation work fundraiser

A year ago, Susan set up a fundraiser page to raise money for additional work on the hill by sponsoring her to walk while recovering from a broken ankle.

The target was to raise £2000, and the appeal has raised £220. Susan will update the page to make the fundraiser about general needs such as buying gloves for work parties and gorse cutting. She will also remove the references about her broken ankle.

Susan will share a draft with this group and then re-publish it.

c. Public Art

In June, Rob will be talking to Bricks in St Anne's about how we might approach a project to install a public art piece at Troopers Hill entrance from Troopers Hill Field. Bricks are keen to get involved and help if they can.

3. Nature Conservation work on Troopers Hill

a. Nature conservation work parties

- On Saturday 12th March, a group cleared the side of the path below the chimney in Sally's glade.

- On 24th March, the Park Works team repaired the steps on the path parallel to

Troopers Hill Road.

- On 7th April, Neil led a party trimming the edge of some footpaths.
- On 30th April, Dom led a group clearing saplings and bramble from the broom.
- On 12st May, Adam led a group clearing more saplings and bramble from broom on the slopes beside Troopers Hill Road.
- Today, 26th May, the Park Works team cleared tree saplings above the gully.

The next work parties will focus on clearing bracken.

If anyone would like to help support Susan in arranging and managing the attendees for work parties, Susan would be grateful for the help.

b. Summer works from Bristol City Council

Bristol City Council has started to cut back bracken and will begin to cut back the paths when they become overgrown and a problem.

4. Events

a. Star Gazing

Due to weather and sky conditions, the event did not happen. There were two very short windows in March that would have avoided moonlit nights. Rod said there could be an opportunity to do some solar observing when the balloon fiesta is happening and will talk to the Bristol Astronomical society about doing this.

b. Dawn Chorus Sunday 13th March

Ed Drewitt did a great job leading a group for the Dawn Chorus event. The overnight rain cleared, and we saw a good range of birds.

c. History Walk – 22nd May

Twenty people joined this event, some of whom had never visited Troopers Hill.

d. Drop in gazebo – 29th May

From 2.30 pm, the second drop-in gazebo event will be happening this Sunday, located at the entrance to Troopers Hill from Troopers Hill Field.

5. Networking

a. RHS South West in Bloom - IYN and Pride in Parks

We received a 5-star award for the South West In Bloom - Pride in Parks category.

South West in Bloom has published two articles by Susan, one about the pros and

cons of beekeeping and another about the fundraising work by Rob for the path re-surfacing work.

At the last meeting, we agreed we should enter the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category. When a date is set for an assessor to visit the site to review, Susan will share and ask if any members can join her.

The assessor will complete the assessments for 'Pride in Parks' and 'It's Your Neighbourhood' at the same time when they visit Troopers Hill. The 'Pride in Parks' category assess the site, and the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category assesses us as a group.

In past years, we have had top results in each category, which helps us get the parks team to maintain Troopers Hill.

b. Summerhill Methodist Church

Unfortunately, with a diminishing congregation, the church will be closing.

Rob and Susan have been invited to a service to celebrate the church towards the end of July.

We have previously used the church for committee meetings, a space for picnics and toilets for all-day corporate work parties.

Susan is looking at alternatives for the future, such as the Pied Horse, the Sikh Temple, St Aiden's church and Woodwise academy.

c. St George Community Association

The St George Community Network is merging into St George Community Association. At the AGM last Sunday, Rob agreed to be the interim chair while Tamsin stands down. The Community Association will continue doing the work that the Community Network used to do.

6. St George Strollers

The rambler's Wellbeing Walks are going well. Last Monday, Susan led the walk which was attended by 26 people from Old Market to Church Road.

The group are always looking for volunteers. Susan asked if people were interested in getting involved or would join for a walk, they should get in touch.

7. AOB

Adam cannot take the minutes at the next meeting. Margaret said she could take the minutes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be from 7.15-9 pm on Thursday 21st July 2022.