**Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting – 8 February 2017**

1. **Present:**

Abi Coupe, Dave Coupe, Alan Mason, Charulata Patel, Bob Tarron, Rita Tarron, James Hetherington, Margaret Hetherington, Trevor Tween, Scott Ashdown.

1. **Apologies:**

Judith Batson, Judy Entwistle, Paul Hammond.

1. **Minutes of January 2017**

Agreed.

1. **Finance (Alan Mason)**

Alan finally has access to the bank account but was unable to view all of the transactions. Alan has made contact with Barclays to see if his permissions can be updated.

Post Meeting Note (14 February) - £7,500 received from Tesco has been moved to the Community Centre bank account.

£625 Your Say Your Way Funding has been received.

The membership area of the website has been developed by Scott. Alan has shared a draft application form which Scott has put up on to the site.***Action: Scott to send 2 links relating to the application form to Alan for them to finalise.***

Part of the Your Say Your Way Funding was £625 for tools training. Potential training providers include the Chilterns Conservation Board (in the past they have had subsides to provide discounted training) or Shuttleworth College (used by the Wildlife Trust).***Action: Charulata to contact Chilterns Conservation Board to see if they have any grants available for training.***

1. **2017 Events**

Highlights include:

* Monthly meetings, excluding August. Confirmed speakers include: Esther Clarke (Wildlife Trust) – 12 April for £50, Andy Grimsey (bird expert) 10 May for a talk and 14 May for a “Dawn Chorus Walk”, we will give Andy an ex gratia fee of £20.
* Proposed orchid walk with Trevor Tween in June, and a visit to Stopsley Common Farm in September (following from Lionel Shaw’s well attended talk last year).
* Walks, approximately 5 miles, starting at 26 March, led by Bob and Rita. 24 September walk moved to 1 October – Agreed.
* Litter picks - first one of 2017 took place on 11 February
* Butterfly Surveying between May – October. We will investigate extending this to cover flora and fauna.
* TCV and conservation work
* Wildlife Weekend (14 (evening), 15 & 16 July) – Friday Evening - Bats (Bedfordshire Bat Society)
* Saturday 15 July (am) – Geocaching event and possible treasure hunt for younger children
* Saturday 15 July (evening) - Astronomy event, confirmed for free with Bedfordshire Astronomy Society
* Sunday (pm) – Reptiles gazebo event with Chris Wellbourn, booked for £50. ***Action: Charulata agreed to contact Sean Manning to arrange for gazebo retrieval.***
* Would be good to promote via leaflets (in 2015 cost was £512 from Clive Mead)***Action: Charulata to contact Heather at Luton Council to find out if there is flexibility to allocate some Your Say Your Way Funding for this, as we did not specifically bid for any marketing budget in our bid.***

***Action: Charulata to contact badger expert on the possibility of a small group badger watch.***

1. **Rights of Way/Access Update (James Hetherington)**

James update note attached.

On 11 February we completed the cut back either side ofthe path. We are all set now for the repair of the second set ofsteps and building the new ones on Monday 3 April with TCV. James will advise Historic England of the date for the works incompliance with our SAM consent.

Additional upcoming clearance is on Wednesday 29th March – fencing repairs on Stopsley Common. Meeting place is on St Thomas’ Road opposite the school entrance. Please let Esther.Clarke@wildlifebcn.org know if you plan to attend.

1. **Interpretation Signage Update (Clive Mead in attendance)**

Clive has redesigned the first draft based on feedback received from Paul and in keeping with the sign at Limbury Meads.

The group agreed:

* We want to include images of red kites, fallow dear, bee orchids, butterfly orchid, slow warms, bats, owls, green woodpecker, buzzards, chalk hill blue butterfly. Clive is happy to supply the images, which can also be put on the website. ***Action: All to send any images that could be used on the sign to Clive*.**
* Clive should refer to the sketch map passed to him from James
* Trevor will send amended text to Clive.
* We will not use the apostrophe in references to Bradgers Hill, but will reference the history of the name (from the Bradshaw family) on the website.

***Action: Paul to retrieve information on payment arrangements for the interpretation signage and to forward to Alan.***

1. AOB

Nothing raised.