**Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting – 8 March2017**

1. **Present:**

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

A very warm welcome to Jim as a new ‘Friend of Bradgers Hill’.

1. **Apologies:**

Judy Entwistle.

1. **Minutes of February 2017**

Agreed.

1. **Finance (Alan Mason)**

Scott has made good progress on the membership area of the website, the final step is to set up a PayPal link to allow online payments from 1 April 2017. ***Action: Scott and Alan to meet to test and finalise payment arrangements and add a data protection disclaimer to the membership application form.***

£250 spent on tools so far. Therefore sufficient budget was available to reimburse Margaret for the litter picker purchase. Alan issued a cheque to Margaret. Alan will send receipts to TCV (funds originated from their Support Grant).

Part of the Your Say Your Way Funding original bid was £450 for tools training (which will now need to be increased to £500 due to the cost of training, please see below). A total of £625 received from our YSYW funding so far.

Potentialpower tools training providers include the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB), in the past they have had subsides to provide discounted training, or Shuttleworth College (used by the Wildlife Trust).Charulata reported that Shuttleworth is £249 per person for a 1 day power tools training course. Delegates must supply their own equipment and personal protection equipment (***Action: Trevor to ask Esther Clarke if we can borrow some tools for training***).Agreed that we will not purchase our own power tools.Dave and Jim volunteered to undertake the training.

CCB can offer some funding for the training, the application must be submitted before the end of the financial year (they can match our contribution, up to 75%). The remaining funds, dependent on how much we get from CCB, can be spent on personal protection equipment for Dave and Jim.

Paul has been in contact with the Heritage Lottery Fund. They have a ‘Sharing Heritage Grant’ (£3k - £10k, can apply at any time), as well as larger grants of £10k - £100k also available. Paul will start scoping for 2018.

***Action: Paul to consider potential grant applications, revisiting the work done in 2016 listing funding opportunities.***

***Action: Paul to check if he paid for the website hosting auto renewal.***

Agreed that we will charge for events in the main room, charging criteria will be set out on the website.

1. **2017 Events**

Highlights include:

* Monthly meetings, excluding August. Confirmed speakers include: Esther Clarke (Wildlife Trust) – 12 April for £50.***Action – Scott to add Esther’s talk to the website***, 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.
* 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.
* Litter picks - next one 12 March
* Butterfly Surveying between May – October.
* TCV and conservation work
* Wildlife Weekend (14 (evening), 15 & 16 July) – Friday Evening - Bats (Bedfordshire Bat Society), offer £20 fee
* 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 (am) - Butterfly walk at 12:30 led by Dave Coupe
* Sunday (pm) – Reptiles gazebo event with Chris Wellbourn, booked for £50. The gazebo has gone missing!Possible session with the Wildlife Trust, slot tbc, Esther Clarke to confirm.
* Would be good to promote via leaflets (in 2015 cost was £512 from Clive Mead)
* ***Action: Scott to add the Wildlife Weekend programme to the website and social media.***
* ***Action: Abi to set up a sheet to document attendance at events as well as a feedback form.***

Charulata has made various contacts about the possibility of a small badger watch group, but received no response.***Action: Trevor to investigate any badger expert contacts.***

***Action: Abi to create a register of hours spent volunteering etc. We will include this as a standing item on the Agenda.***

***Action: Trevor to send the link for the North Chilterns volunteering so that Scott can add to the website.***

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 replacement of the middle set ofsteps and building the new ones on Monday 3 April with TCV.Meeting time is 10:30 at the bottom of the hill by Bennington Close. James has notified Historic England of the date for the works incompliance with our SAM consent.

During late spring/summer on the first Sunday of every month, starting 2 April, we will carry out a regular walk of the tracks on the hill. This will identify access problems and allow minor trimming/removal of fallen branches etc. ***Action: Dave to put monitoring walks in the diary.***

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.

Public Liability Insurance and first aid kit/training carried forward to the April Meeting.

James advised that the public liability insurance used by TCV is with Zurich Insurance and costs approximately £200-£300.

1. **Interpretation Signage Update**

Latest draft presented by Paul (subsequently circulated by Abi).

Agreed that the photos included could be improved. Paul will liaise with Clive on a final draft.

1. **AOB**

Nothing raised.