**Friends of Bradgers HillMeeting –14 February 2018**

1. **Present:**

Abi Coupe, Dave Coupe, Alan Mason, Charulata Patel, James Hetherington, Margaret Hetherington, Bob Tarron, Rita Tarron.

1. **Apologies:**

Trevor Tween.

1. **Minutes of January 2018**

Agreed.

1. **Finance (Alan Mason)**

The balance of Friends of Bradgers Hill funds is £106. The only recent expenditure has been for the domain name renewal with Go Daddy and room hire.

We do not have a continuous income stream to pay for annual essentials such as website domain hosting, room hire and insurance costs. We will seek to increase funds by charging £2 per person for entry at events and bringing the donations bucket.

Renewal of membership fees is due 1 April 2018. The current cost for full membership is £5.00 per person per year. Dave suggested that in order to have a basic stream of income it would be worth considering increasing this to £10 per person per year. A vote was held on this and it was unanimously agreed to increase the full membership fee to £10 per person per year. Those who are full members will not need to pay the £2.00 per person entry fee for events. We will be more proactive in encouraging new members at events.

**Action:** Scott to check all of the membership links on the website as some of them don’t appear to be working. Also to update the membership fees and to state that full members get free entry to events.

**Action:** Abi to ask Scott about the website hosting renewal, so that we can seek better value for money next year.

**Action:** Dave to speak to Paul to remind him to send on any applicable funding opportunities.

**Action:** Abi to update the Constitution to reflect the change in membership fees from April 2018 and to bring to the March 2018 Meeting for review.

**Your Say Your Way**

We were successful in our bid for £980 composed of:

* Equipment - £200
* Resources/speaker support - £190
* Reopening of the nature trails and associated marketing - £550
* TCV Membership - £40

We are now able to claim 50% of the funds and will then need to submit invoices before we can claim the second half.

For the first invoice we will claim the funds for the reopening of the nature trails. We will work alongside TCV for this project and the first invoice will be £240 including VAT. This work was originally planned to commence in February and be completed in March, but is now on hold for the reasons set out below at Section 6.

1. **2018 Programme**

Highlights include:

* Monthly meetings. We have the Bedfordshire Rural Crime Team booked to speak at the April Meeting and a badger walk in May (details of route to be confirmed).
* Walks, approximately 5 miles, led by Bob and Rita. Also a number of themed walks such as the bat and bird walks (waiting for a response from Andy Grimsey), plus a Christmas Walk hosted by Trevor Tween on 15 December.
* Try to introduce some activities aimed at younger people such as mini beast identification, competitions such as photography, art and or recipes.
* Litter picks - 4 per year. Taking place on 4 February, 15 April, 29 July, and 7 October 2018.
* Butterfly Surveying between May – October.
* Reopening of the lower nature trail and conservation work.
* Summer Wildlife Events –We will spread across the summer including Astronomy on 27 July to coincide with the lunar eclipse, the reptile roadshow and the bat evening (22 or 29 June proposed).

***Action:*** Charulata to ask Scottto update all of the events sections on the website*.*

1. **Work Parties**

Access Work Parties will take place on the following Saturdays:

* 17 February 2018
* 10 March 2018 – location not decided pending progress on 17 February.

All will meet at 9:30am by the roundabout at Bushmead Road/Fairford Avenue and finish by 12:30pm.

We have unfortunately had to cancel the work party to reopen the nature trail scheduled for Monday 19 February, in conjunction with TCV, due to concerns raised by Mr Tim Starkey (on behalf of the Trustees of the Old Bedford Road Estates). Mr Starkey’s concerns were received on 5 February 2018, by email, in response to James Hetherington sending a briefing note on our 2018 plans. James read out the contents of the email from Mr Starkey. Mr Starkey advised that he was unaware of the location of the nature trail and would need to obtain his client’s consent to work on their land before any work could be undertaken.

In response to Mr Starkey James has sent the following:

* The sketch map showing the nature trail (the sketch was completed in 2016)
* A copy of a Luton Museum leaflet produced by Trevor Tween from the 1990s showing the existence of the trail
* The Proposal to Reopen the Nature Trails presented by James in the autumn of 2017.

No response has been received from Mr Starkey as of 14 February and James will follow up as required.

**Action:** Dave to update the electronic calendar and notice boards to advise that the 19 February work party is cancelled.

1. **Future Meeting Room Choice (Alan Mason)**

We agreed to use the Warden Room for future smaller meetings to save money. When we have guest speakers we will continue to use one of the larger rooms.

**Action:** Abi to contact hub to amend the bookings on Hall Master.

1. **Opportunities for assistance from Youth Offending Team (Dave Coupe)**

The Youth Offending Team is keen to engage in some physical work. We agreed to explore this as it would be a good free supervised resource. We would need to check if this would be covered by our insurance and what is covered by the Offending Teams existing insurance.

The Duke of Edinburgh Programme from Luton Sixth Form College is also interested.

**Action:** Abi to contact Youth Offending Team and Duke of Edinburgh representatives to explore future opportunities.

1. **Update from Luton Friends of Parks Meetings (Bob Tarron)**

Bob updated us on the recent highlights:

* The group is drawing up a Constitution and still has not got a treasurer nor a bank account. Expect to ask groups that attend for a £5 donation.
* Aware of funding opportunities through the council, which will help us.
* River Lea (Manor Road) will be redeveloped by Affinity Water.
* Advised on the Chiltern Society Consultation on their Five Year Plan (deadline 28 February).
1. **AOB**

Nothing raised.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 14 March