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

1. **Present:**

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

1. **Apologies:**

None.

1. **Minutes of February 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 (February’s invoice has not been generated yet).

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 (for non members) and bringing the donations bucket.

Dave has asked Bill Bell at Luton Culture to put him on the distribution list for funding opportunities.

Renewal of membership fees is due 1 April 2018. Payment can be made via Paypal, bank transfer, cash or cheque.

We agreed that the different types of membership are too confusing. It was proposed to just have one type of membership for £10 per year, which includes entry to all types of events and provides voting rights. Under 16s will get free entry to events, but must be accompanied by an adult.

**Action:** Abi to update the Constitution to reflect the change to membership and ask Scott to update the website.

**Action:** Abi to ask Scott about the website hosting renewal, so that we can seek better value for money next year. –*Carried forward as waiting for a reply from Scott*.

**Action:** Abi to change the booking for May to the Bradgers Room.

**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 (£490) 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.

Action: Alan to claim £490 for the reopening of the nature trails now we have the consent of the trustees (see 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*.Carried forward: Been requested but not been completed by Scott and we will contact Scott to see if we can help.*

1. **Work Parties**

Access Work Parties successfully took place on:

* 17 February 2018 – Hexton Highway brambles cut back and litter removed.
* 10 March 2018 – Track near to the Riddy Trail – cleared quarter to a third. Got rid of some of the worst obstacles, made good progress.

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

1. **Reopening of nature trails**

Mr Starkey of Bidwells on behalf of the trustees of the Old Bedford Road Estates has responded to James Hetherington on Monday 12 March. Mr Starkey has discussed the proposal with his client and is happy to give content subject to 11 conditions. James ran trhough the conditions and we agreed that none are impossible.

Laura Downton at Wildlife Trust.Trevor suggested copying the letter to Laura Downton at the Wildlife Trust and getting her consent to works (to comply with the condition of only carrying out work in accordance with guidelines of the Wildlife Trust).

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 have checked out both organisations insurance policies and we appear to have good coverage, there are some outstanding concerns around the safety of using dangerous tools.

**Action:** Abi to see if a representative from the Youth Offending Team can attend a future meeting to flesh out our concerns.

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

1. **AOB**

Trevor updated that sadly Bradgers Hill is not on the list of potential SSSI sites for Luton. The only two that appear on Gov.uk are Cowslip Meadow and Dallow Downs. Bradgers Hill may not be big enough as a standalone site and there are also complications of multiple ownership.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 14 March