



Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Annual General Meeting 2021

**Proceedings of Annual General Meeting of Bracknell Conservation Volunteers
(BCV), held 3 August 2021 at Cabbage Hill, Binfield, 11:00 – 12:00**

Welcome

Richard Elsbury (Chairman) welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting.

Present:

Jim Archibald

Colin Bird

Maggie Britt

Roger Britt

Nicky Clothier

Denis Crampton

Paul Eaton

Richard Elsbury

Steve Forster

Malcolm Hawkes

Barbara Jerome

Andy Mansfield

Lissie Mitchell

Jon Munday

Michael J Norton

Lynette Nunn

Neville Pike

Trevor Scott

Helen Viner

Apologies

Apologies were received from Michael and Rose Byrne, Graham Coe, Paul Cooper and Helena Ross.

Previous meeting

The AGM 2020 was held on 1 September 2020 at Cabbage Hill. The minutes of the 2020 meeting were accepted: proposed by Maggie Britt, seconded by Lissie Mitchell.

The issue of first aid training is still ongoing (see below).

Chairman's Review of past year

Chairman Richard Elsbury said thanks a lot to everyone in the group over the last year. Everyone in the group has made a difference to our countryside, and all can give themselves a pat on the back for their work.

Officers of BCV

Richard Elsbury was voted in again as Chairman, nominated Roger Britt, seconded Maggie Britt:

Other officers were voted in by general consent:

Trevor Scott was voted in again as Task Coordinator, but intends to stand down by next AGM, so a replacement is required. Trevor will work with new candidate over the next year to familiarise the candidate with the job. Any person willing to put themselves forward should get in touch.

Tools Coordinator: Michael J. Norton

Secretary: Roger Britt

Treasurer: Malcolm Hawkes

Webmaster: Stuart Bell

Data Controller (GDPR): Jon Munday

Group Photographer: Nicky Clothier (Lissie Mitchell deputising as necessary).

Task leaders: Richard Elsbury, Jon Munday, Helen Viner.

First aiders

There was some discussion about first aiders. We currently have 3 certificated first aiders: Richard Elsbury, Roger Britt and Maggie Britt. Richard Elsbury has recently completed a first aid course: Roger and Maggie Britt are due for recertification in ? 2022. Although there is no formal requirement as regards first aiders or number of first aiders, it is considered desirable to have a number of first aiders on hand.

First aid courses are now being offered at Bracknell College. It would be a good idea to have at least 1 first aider undergoing training on a rolling basis, so if anyone is willing to do a first aid course, please get in touch.

[added after AGM: Lissie Mitchell has agreed to go on first aid course.]

Financial Report

A copy of the income and expenditure report for the year to 31 March 2021 is appended to this document; please see this for detailed figures.

Profit exceeded budget for this year, because we worked for about half of the year, the other half was in Covid 19 lockdown, and because there was no outlay for a Christmas celebration.

Any BCV shirts left over will be used. The first aid course for Richard Elsbury cost £36.

The profit is £494.

We budget for 50 sessions at £70 per session. The £70 fee is fixed for 5 years. We budget for profit of £500-£700 in a normal year, to fund replacement of vehicle. Cash at bank is £7505.

MH sent an invoice to BFC last quarter.

MH would like to amend the bank mandate from 2 signatories (at present RE and MH) to 2 out of 4, this was agreed by general consent.

MH expressed thanks to Paul Cooper for reviewing the accounts.

If it is decided to have a Christmas party, we may have to ask for contributions from volunteers.

Tools

Michael John Norton Esq. will continue as tools coordinator.

The stocktake was done by Michael J Norton (MJN) and Jon Munday (JM), all went smoothly. Bowsaw No. 2 has disappeared and we are short of about 6 pairs of loppers.

[Kestrel was seen hovering at this point]

MJN has provided at no cost:

- dowel plate
- foldable saw bench
- log arch (in 3 parts)

There was a suggestion that we might organise a session of BCV to look at tools and to repair and sharpen any that need it.

It has been suggested that we have a broom available at each session. A garden rake might also be useful.

Tools coordinator wants volunteers to pay more attention to retrieving and returning tools which have been used.

No tools are required at the moment: if there is a need for any, please contact MJN.

Tools coordinator is happy with £100 budgeted for new tools.

BCV clothing

Nicky Clothier still has about 5 long-sleeved shirts and about 18 short-sleeved shirts available. These will be distributed as appropriate. We do not need to buy new clothing at the moment.

Volunteers

We have about 9 potential new volunteers waiting at the moment. The shortage of BFC rangers makes it difficult to identify tasks suitable for new volunteers at the moment. Roger

Britt and Trevor Scott will forward mails they have from potential new volunteers to Jon Munday, who will deal with these as appropriate.

The BCV group at the moment is about optimal size at ~ 15 per session, we need to be careful not to take on too many new people.

The question was raised: could we ask new volunteers if they have received both doses of vaccine. There was general agreement that this would be at best difficult.

A draft letter to be sent to new volunteers has been prepared by Roger Britt. It was asked whether other related groups such as Warfield Environment Group and Binfield Environment Group could be mentioned on the letter.

New leaders/deputising for officers

Lissie Mitchell has collated job descriptions from officers, and these will be put on the website by our webmaster. It is clear from the job descriptions what is involved in, for example, the role of task coordinator. We are hoping that someone will come forward as candidate to take over the task coordinator task when Trevor stands down.

We discussed the possible reasons why people do not volunteer to become team leaders: at the moment we have 3 leaders, and would ideally like to have at least 4. One possibility is to split up the tasks that leaders perform, for example having one person driving the group car and another person directing activities on site.

Some tasks currently carried out by Secretary could be passed to a deputy.

Vote of thanks to group photographer/deputies

A vote of thanks was moved for Nicky as group photographer and Lissie as deputy, and was approved by general consent. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by members.

The Wetland Project

About 3.5 years ago, Marie-Anne Phillips, who was then the BFC ranger for Tarmans Copse, mentioned that there were some trees available, and asked if BCV could make use of these. Michael Norton was then a member of the biodiversity group, so he mentioned to Marlies Boydell, BFC biodiversity officer, that BCV could do the following activities which involve no cost:

- use trees to build post/rail fences (this was before the pandemic), and possibly extend this to making benches

- dam streams to improve wetland habitats: MJN and Richard Elsbury have already done this in some cases, e.g. at Wykery Copse
- dig ponds without liners: this is preferable to using liners, which are costly and require maintenance; ponds without liners are better for native wildlife such as amphibians

Marlies is 100% in agreement with these ideas.

We could drive some projects along these lines ourselves. MJN has found a suitable site at Tarmans Copse where we could make a pond. This site, near the fence by ? Fujtsu, has a mixture of native trees of suitable sizes for building dams, including some alder, which is an indicator of wetland habitats. Permission will have to be sought from the ranger responsible for any project like this.

Roger Britt/Maggie Britt/Denis Crampton and Helen Viner expressed interest in taking part in a project of this kind. We will have to set a time soon to explore this site.

Hard drive for photographs

Nicky Clothier would like to purchase an external hard drive to store the group photographs. Treasurer Malcolm Hawkes agreed to this, cost about £30-40.

Any other business

Lynette Nunn asked if we could take more wildlife photographs at our sessions. and put these on the website. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea.

MJN will organise a subgroup at some time to learn how to cleave timbers (especially sweet chestnut) at Tarmans Copse.

Date of next Annual General Meeting

Date will be about the same time next year, it is not possible to be any more precise at the moment.

Appendices

1. Income and expenditure report y/e 31 March 2021



BCV accounts 2021
for AGM.xlsx

2. Tools inventory



toolsinventory_2021.p
df