



Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

Annual General Meeting 2022

AGM held 7 June 2022 at Lily Hill Park

Welcome from Chair

Richard Elsbury (RE) welcomed all members to the meeting

Attendees

Iain Bell
Stuart Bell
Hugh Barnard
Colin Bird
Maggie Britt
Roger Britt
Michael Byrne
Rose Byrne

Paul Cooper
Denis Crampton
Paul Eaton
Richard Elsbury
Steve Forster
Michele Fox
Carol Gates
Malcolm Hawkes

Barbara Jerome
Andy Mansfield
David Metson
Lissie Mitchell
Jon Munday
Lynette Nunn
Trevor Scott

Apologies

Received from: Nicky Clothier, Neville Pike, Jim Archibald, Helen Viner and Michael J Norton

Previous meeting

The meetings of the 2021 AGM were accepted. Proposed by Jon Munday, seconded by Maggie Britt

Matters arising from 2021 AGM

We are still short of first aiders in the group. Initially we need 2 more to be qualified. Ideally this would be part of a rolling programme. Cost of courses varies and must be authorised by Malcolm Hawkes (MH). Lissie and Michele volunteered to attend once a course has been identified.

Chair's review of last year

RE said that as a group we had worked well together in what had at times been difficult circumstances. We had approached all tasks with enthusiasm. The group officers had worked hard to ensure that tasks were on track. He was particularly appreciative of the support that all members had provided to each other through a challenging year

Officers of BCV

All officers were content to stand again and were voted by general consent.

Trevor Scott is looking to stand down as Task Co-ordinator. RE proposed that the group should look for deputies for all roles to assist/cover. All job descriptions are on the website

Tools Co-ordinator: Michael J Norton

Task Co-Ordinator: Trevor Scott

Secretary: Roger Britt

Treasurer: Malcolm Hawkes

Webmaster: Stuart Bell

Data Controller (GDPR): Jon Mundy

Group Photographer: Nicky Clothier (deputy, Lissie Mitchell)

Task Leaders: Richard Elsbury, Jon Munday, Helen Viner

Action: Those interested to act as deputies should approach post holder or RE.

Financial Report

A copy of the income and expenditure report for the year to 31 March 2022 is appended to this document. Please see this for detailed figures. Currently in surplus, although we have to be mindful of the requirement to replace the car in the near future. Finances have been "COVID neutral"; although we lost money though tasks not being undertaken, this was off-set by not having to replace tools, non-use of the car, and a reduced Christmas party

£9k is currently held in the bank

MH said that he will amend the bank mandate which was currently 2 named people (himself and RE) to 2 of 4 named people. (Agreed at meeting in 2021)

MH thanked Paul Cooper for reviewing the accounts

Car

It was agreed to take the issue of the car as a separate agenda item.

The MOT is due in November. In view of the condition of the car it is anticipated that this will cause some expense, so it would be beneficial to identify a replacement ahead of this.

RE proposed that specifications should be drawn up, identifying optimum length (for the garage), engine size, height, to accommodate all the tools. Task leaders may be best placed to do this.

Hugh Barnard said that he had a contact who may be able to source a suitable vehicle once the specifications had been provided

MH proposed a budget of up to £5k

Action: task leaders to provide specifications for new vehicle

Tools Update

Jon Munday (JM) provided update in MJN's absence.

MJN is hoping to purchase pruning saws with holsters.

He is proposing to organise a day for tools maintenance. It was agreed that this would be beneficial, but several attendees questioned if this would require a whole day. It may be possible to achieve this as part of another task, eg ragwort pulling. JM pointed out that the group has a supply of replacement bowsaw blades, although these are currently kept in the garage.

Action: A suitable task to be identified for tools maintenance (task co-ordinator/team leaders)

Tools

Maggie queried the number and condition of the short-handled loppers. It was agreed that the condition would be resolved through the maintenance session, and that we probably had sufficient numbers

AOB

The type of tasks we have been allocated over the past year has been causing some concern. There does not seem to have been a strong element of conservation involved. It was suggested that particularly with the number of ragwort pulling tasks scheduled this was a commercial rather than conservation target. The Parks department had recently lost a number of experienced park rangers, and those that had come in may not be aware of the skills held by BCV. The group no longer has any input into the task allocated. It was agreed that more understanding of the rationale behind the tasks would be beneficial. Maggie informed the meeting that the Parks dept Management Plans were published on-line Roger could attach link to the weekly reminder email.

It was agreed that a letter should be drafted to Chris Swatridge outlining BCV's concerns and stressing our skills base and the previous wide nature of tasks undertaken

Action

Roger to draft letter

Roger to attach link to the Management Plant with weekly reminder

RE said that MJN was keen to move forward on the wetlands project he has previously proposed. This would require a sub-group and would be separate from the Tuesday task.

Action

MJN to seek named volunteers at his next attendance

Date of next AGM

TBA

Meeting closed at 12.00