



## Bracknell Conservation Volunteers

AGM 16 July 2024  
Lily Hill Park

### Welcome from the Chair

Richard Elsbury welcomed all members to the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming, particularly as this would be his last meeting as Chair

### Attendees

Iain Bell	Paul Cooper	Lissie Mitchell
Stuart Bell	Steve Eagles	Jon Munday
Hugh Barnard	Paul Eaton	Michael J Norton
Colin Bird	Richard Elsbury	Lynette Nunn
Mark Bond	Steven Forster	Dinesh Raniga
Maggie Britt	Michele Fox	David Stevenson
Roger Britt	Malcolm Hawkes	Trevor Scott
Dmitrijs Cigankovs	Barbara Jerome	Gilles Vassor
Nicky Clothier	Andy Mansfield	Helen Viner

### Apologies

Jim Archibald, Michael Byrne, Rose Byrne, Roy Cardrick, Neville Pike, Stephen Scott

### Matter arising from 2023 AGM

No matters arising

### **Vote on acceptance of minutes of 2023 AGM**

Unanimously accepted

### **Chair's review of 2023/4**

Richard reminded the meeting that he would be stepping down as Chair with immediate effect. He has held the position since the inception of the group. Whilst there have been changes over that time, the key objective has remained the same: to benefit all groups in society, so that all are able to access and enjoy our green spaces. As the group has evolved and increased in size, members have always remained supportive of each other. He thanked all for what they'd done and what has been achieved.

Lynette Nunn proposed a vote of thanks to Richard

Seconded by Nicky Clothier

Passed unanimously

### **Treasurer's report (Malcolm Hawkes)**

The report had been distributed with notice of the AGM. Malcolm highlighted some key points

In the last year up to 5/4/24 the group worked 51 weeks, missing only one over Christmas. All spends had been on budget, apart from First Aid where this is an underspend.

Moving forward an assumption had been made that there would be no spend on the car. This has been achieved and the sale has benefitted the accounts by £200. (Thanks to Richard for dealing)

We were able to end the contract on schedule, and are due to receive the deposit of £54 (Thanks to Michael for leading)

The accounts now hold £10k on a fixed deposit of 95 days with interest of 4%  
£1k is held in the current account

Annual spend is around £1.5k

We had previously received £70 per session from BFC. With inflation this had been due to rise to c£80. However, the agreement with BFC that we would use council storage facilities at Lilly Hill for our tools, enabling us to give up the garage, plus the use of the Rangers' vehicle to get tools to sites has altered the financial situation. We will now invoice £35 per session. As we no longer need the car, with its associated costs, or the garage, the impact is about cost neutral.

Malcolm went on to raise the question of moving to charitable status, which had been discussed in full in previous meeting. The benefits of such a move no longer exist in full; particularly the ability to raise funds. The process is in place should the group wish to pursue this at a later stage.

Proposed: Move to charitable status be parked for now (Malcolm)

Seconded: Helen

Passed unanimously

### **Vote on positions of Officers**

Chair: Richard has stood down so a new Chair is required. He suggested that this now become a rolling position, changing annually. It would also be beneficial to create the position of vice chair. After some discussion there was agreement to this. Paul Cooper volunteered to take on the Chair and Michelle Fox Vice Chair. Both positions unopposed.

**Paul therefore becomes Chair and Michele Vice Chair**

Task leaders: Helen is standing down as she is relocating. The group recorded it thanks (and hope she would continue to step in while still available). Over the year new task leaders have been recruited: Hugh Barnard, Paul Cooper and Ian Bell. Hugh is temporarily unavailable

**Available task leaders therefore are Jon Munday, Richard Elsbury, Paul Cooper and Iain Bell**

Data Controller. After some discussion it was agreed that this role sat more naturally under the auspices of the webmaster

**Data Controller Stuart Bell**

All other officers of the group remain unchanged.

### **Tools update**

Jon reported that Michael, Trevor and he had completed a stocktake. A report was distributed with notice of this meeting. Michael reported that the new tools which would be most beneficial for the group at this time would be 2 mattocks, 4 forks, 2 loppers, 2 claw saws, bowsaws and pruning saws. He said he would prefer to research better quality tools. Malcolm agreed that in view of the healthy state of the accounts the tools budget could be increased to a maximum of £400 for this financial year.

There was discussion over keeping track of which tools went to site. This has become more complicated as we share Rangers' tool more regularly.

#### **Action:**

Michael will create an inventory for each tool bag. Task leaders will record which tools are taken for each task

### **Biscuits**

Some discussion over whether as a group we wanted to retain the provision of biscuits. A show of hands suggested a majority do

Lynette Nunn volunteered to take this on, assisted by Michelle. A vote of thanks to Maggie for her years of undertaking this task.

### **Assistance for task leaders to load kit**

Agreed not required

### **Task Record Forms**

It was agreed that a stockpile would be kept in the tool room

Action: Roger to provide forms

### **AOB**

Michael agreed to attend the Biodiversity Action Forum on behalf of the group (Malcolm attends on behalf of another group)

Michael raised issues on the type of task we have been allocated, particularly post-pandemic. In his view these had become more banal, sometime amounting to little more than weeding. Previously we had performed a wider range -building bridges, walkways, fences, hedge laying, creating ponds. He felt there was a disconnect between the policy of the biodiversity forum, which wanted to move away from eg plastic tree guards and pond liners, and the policy of the Parks department.

Helen said that we needed balanced range of tasks. While some members may want, and were able to undertake heavier duty tasks, others preferred lighter work. There was agreement with this

After some discussion the group agreed that we should have greater input with the Parks department on what level of tasks we could do. It would be useful to revisit sites to complete work.

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Alan Wilson at the Parks Dept

Malcolm volunteered to draft an initial letter

Action

Paul C to lead meeting with Parks Dept. Other attended on behalf of BCV to be decided

### **Date of next AGM**

TBA

Meeting closed 12.55

