



Manor Woods Valley Group Annual General Meeting Tuesday 22nd June, 19:00 via Zoom

Draft June 2021 meeting minutes

Attendees: Sophie, Peter, Cheryl, Martin, André, Marie Jo, Davina, Clive, Beryl, Danny, Emma, Maggie, Adriana, Nicholas, Chester, Donna

Apologies: Jennie, Kevin, Stephen

1. Welcome and introductions

Martin welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

2. Highlights of 20/21

Martin, Peter, Sophie and Clive described some of the highs (and one low) of the past 12 months:

- Zoom and WhatsApp were successful new ways for coordinating work in response to pandemic.
- Responded to ecological, climate and health emergencies with action plan - on the website.
- +800 trees planted for Bristol One Tree Per Child (OTPC) project.
- Survey of MWV users undertaken and report published (see item 5 below)
- Habitat management focussed on orchard and wildflower meadow areas to improve conditions for slow worms and pollinators with significant results.
- Woodland path repairs continued for 2nd year.
- 2021 Bristol Walk fest with three walks published on the Go Jauntly app.
- Apples harvested for apple juice and donated to Carpenters Food Bank, Withywood and Bedminster Down raffle.
- Guided walks on wellbeing and mindfulness, medicinal plants, ecology and history.
- Forest of Avon Trust's wellbeing course in MWV for people with mental health difficulties.
- Health and wellbeing leaflet published (available on website).
- Attendance at numerous training events and conferences.
- Design and production of 'business cards' to help with recruitment of volunteers.
- Regular litter picking across the site, thanks to the band of dedicated informal litter pickers.
- Trees donated by local residents planted.
- Annual Himalayan Balsam management project: time taken to pull out has reduced from over 10 person-days 5 years ago to only a few person-hours this year.
- Lots of leaflets, guides, videos published on the website.
- Over 500 hours of onsite volunteering (600hrs in 19/20) and over 500 hours behind the scenes (300hrs in 19/20).
- Growing support with nearly 1000 followers on Facebook and almost 200 members on email list distribution list.
- Valuable support from Bristol City Council parks team, Bristol Parks Forum, Forest of Avon Trust, Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation and UWE.
- Positive impact on wildlife of habitat management, notably Woodpeckers nesting and slow worms observed across the site. Cowslips reappearing in Rabbit Field. Oaks, slow worms and invertebrates being surveyed by UWE students.
- Multiple fires were set to habitat piles and dead hedges during Easter holidays – the lowlight of the year.

3. Local planning

- André reported that work is underway on household reuse and recycling centre on Hartcliffe Way and that its impact on MWV will be monitored.
- Headley Park Church / St Peters Rise flats development: MWVG commented on planning application. Application has now been withdrawn but it's likely another planning application will appear soon.

- Peter reported on how local residents are concerned with Western Slopes development. MWVG is supporting Friends of Western Slopes (Novers Hill) in their campaign to resist development plans.
- It was noted that Wrings Yard was reported to BCC for potential breach of planning condition relating to noise and dust.

4. Treasurers report

Year end 2020-2021

INCOME	
Calendar purchase	£140.00
Calendar purchase	£90.00
Grant - Travel West (BCC)	£394.68
TOTAL INCOME	£624.68
EXPENDITURE	
Equipment	£93.95
Equipment	£49.95
Survey Monkey	£99.00
Calendars	£196.50
Bank charges	£6.20
Waymarker Posts	£429.60
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£875.20
Cash in Hand	£-
Triodos Bank	-£250.52
	-£250.52
BALANCE BY PROJECT	
Income - Unrestricted	£1,040.88
Income - Ring Fenced Money - Orchard Project	£561.27
Income - Ring Fenced Money - Slow Worm Project	£3,320.10
Income - Ring Fenced Money - Woodland Path	£488.57
Income - Ring Fenced Money - Exercise Trail	£70.40
TOTAL BALANCE	£5,481.22

5. Update on Survey Report and Actions Plans

Maggie reported on progress with action plans from the user survey.

- Contact made with Black and Green Ambassadors.
- Forest School pilot has been set up successfully with plans to raise funds to establish a long-term Forest School.
- Discussions with BCC to improve accessibility at entrances for people who require mobility assistance.
- Article published in Zion community newsletter to promote MWV.
- Actions are pending to create connectivity between people and wildlife in local green areas.

6. Updating the constitution

Martin proposes changing current text:

1. Meetings: All management committee meetings are open to all members of the group.
to:

Meetings: All management committee meetings are open to all members of the group and members of the public.

And changing current text:

2. To be entitled to vote at the AGM or an EGM, members must have been on the group's mailing list for a minimum of twelve months and attended at least two meetings or work parties in the previous twelve months.

to:

To be entitled to vote at the AGM or an EGM, members must be on the membership list.

The proposals were passed unanimously and the updated constitution is available on the website.

7. Elections of chair, secretary and treasurer

- Martin, Sophie and Davina were nominated and seconded for the positions of chair, secretary and treasurer, respectively, and were re-elected unanimously.
- Non-elected committee members will continue their roles as follows:

André: development planning

Peter: vice-chair and ecology adviser

Maggie: research

Clive: nature and health

Jennie: nature and education

8. Future plans

- Raise funds for forest school and other projects.
- Improve digital communication channels.
- Continue with Woodland path repairs.
- Continue with habitat maintenance.
- Renew focus on nature recovery/climate/eco emergencies.
- Improve nature and green spaces networking.
- Continue involvement with BNSSG Green Social Prescribing Programme, Healthier Together.
- Complete installation of the 2.5km exercise circuit.
- Oversee installation of two benches in wildflower meadow.
- Install seating logs in Classroom.
- Work to improve access at entrances.

9. Sharing ideas and concerns

- Fire setting during Easter school holidays and our response (actions to engage and involve young people and alternative ways of dealing with cut material) were raised by Sophie and discussed.

10. Minutes of last quarterly meeting and last AGM

Martin drew attention to outstanding issues:

- We will keep the production of audio and alternative languages of leaflet content under consideration.
- The issue of relocating the bench near the pond remains outstanding.
- Fly tipping still on going, and more has been reported to council.
- The promised strategy about Nature Recovery Network from the council's sustainability team will be tabled in Bristol Parks Forum meeting in September 2021.

11. Date and time of next meetings

- 7th Sept 2021, 19:00.
- 7th June 2022, next Annual Meeting (AGM).