

Minutes of Econet Meeting 25th February 2003

Chair: Steve Ayers FOMapledurham Playing Fields

Present:

| | | | |
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| Dave Kenny | Cav Globe/FOBW | Kit Brownlee | RUWG |
| Robert Watson | Green Gym | | |
| Jenny Cottee | Tilehurst Plot | Tricia Marcouse | RUWG |
| | Holder's | (minutes) | |
| John Lerpiniere | CROW/Theale Bird | Andrew Blake | BTCV./CROW |
| | Group | | |
| Philip Allen | BeC/FOMclroys | Anne Latto | FO Clayfied Copse |
| Catherine Olver | Reading Tree Club | Judith Oliver | Crow/Fompf |
| Tina Gower | RBC | Mark | University of Reading |

Apologies:

Mike Cox FOWaterloo Meadows
Phil Bagge Caversham Globe

| | | ACTION |
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| 1 | <p>Minutes of last meeting Agreed Thanks to Margaret for stuffing all of the envelopes</p> | none |
| 2 Catherine /Tina | <p>Tree Wardens John Stokes of the Tree Council has been invited to talk to Reading Tree Club to launch the tree warden scheme in Reading. Existing wardens from the Maidenhead area will be recruited to come to the meeting to enthuse people. Tree wardens will be a link between the council and the public. The warden scheme has to be approved and organised by a local authority to give credence to the wardens and their work. RBC will be the co-ordinator and is positive about having tree wardens, but the Tree Council will support the wardens. RTC is having a premeeting to look at what the work of the wardens might involve. Catherine is already getting lots of calls on trees from the public. Tina reported that John Stokes has said it is VERY important to ensure that there are wardens to cover the whole district, but that these need not be "green" groups, training will be given to people with an interest but no existing knowledge base. Residents associations should be involved Jenny asked whether the tree wardens will help to enforce existing planting/landscape requirements of planning permissions, and whether the council will make the details known to the wardens Tina said there were three main links with the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping enforcement of planning requirements for landscaping and TPOs • Education and information to the public | <p>ALL inaugural meeting May 13th botany department reading university</p> <p>Trish to provide Catherine with mailing list and labels</p> |

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| Anne | Need better publicity: can we put some signs on the Liebenrood road entrances in advance?? | Judith making banners |
| Jenny | Offered to put an entry in Tilehurst allotment newsletter and advertise at Farmers Market | Phil/Jenny |
| Kit | Potential for surplus from 28 th April to go to Farmers Market | |
| Kit | DO we need another meeting to organise the woodland product sale?? | |
| Tina | Not felt necessary at this stage | |
| Tina | Will ask Ben about the legal position concerning a "garden boot" sale (UPDATE: approval given – no licence needed) | Tina |
| 5 | Training 10 th March training on woodlands and open land events and insurance risk (Zurich municipal loss control) 6 courses May to October on wildlife by BBOWT, 12 places on each course . to be held at Dinton pastures first aid course being booked there may be a fee | Robert & Judith attending |
| 6 | Health and safety issues Identified problems in controlling larger groups where people joined the task during the working day: general H and S activities such as the tools talk are difficult to provide when people turn up after the start of the task. General agreement that one of the activities is to tell the initial group of people at the first tools talk that they should direct new people joining the task to the task leader, or to another identified person who will do further task initiation talks. <i>Risk assessment/risk awareness</i> Risk assessment course available 19 th April at Prospect Park Mike Cox of Waterloo Meadows wants the proforma for risk assessment. Does anyone else need it??? Suggestion to rebadge the FOMPF risk assessment sheet as an Econet form. General approval for this idea. BTCV have a very comprehensive set of forms that can be used if required. Forms available for viewing, copying at prospect park | Inform Tina if you want to attend course |
| 7 | Local Plan Consultation Reading Local plan consultation leaflets passed round. Comments required through questionnaire or letter. Closing date 12 th April 2003. Additional copies of the document available from RBC. Short of people to attend discussion meetings: please try to go if you can: meeting dates distributed | |
| 8 | AOB Is it feasible for another group, not a current member of Econet, to join with the Econet insurance? It is £120/year for the Tilehurst allotment society to attend the Farmers Market. Is amalgamation possible? | |
| Jenny | | |
| Steve | Econet constitution is for practical work in Reading, not for sales, so not possible | none |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical maintenance and planting <p>Steve asked what area each warden would be expected to cover? Whatever they agree to, but John Stokes knows optimum numbers</p> <p>Catherine asked how many groups there are in the Borough at present that could be contacted</p> <p>Dunno: problems in some areas, lots of groups in others, including housing associations.</p> <p>General feeling that this was a good opportunity for other groups to get involved, existing Econet people very busy. Tina pointed out that the new people would need help from the green groups since we have most of the practical knowledge.</p> <p>Trish said that the TFOF database contains a lot of group names and contacts and could be used for an initial mailing.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Christmas tree cash and tool stores</p> <p>Cutting: BBOWT £200 expenses, BeC £235; CROW £67</p> <p>290 hours done in selling and preparation; £1200 to distribute</p> <p>Requests put in for small tools: loppers and secateurs in particular: trish offered a Darlac catalogue who provide good and relatively cheap cutting tools</p> <p>AGREED: £500 for small tools; rest to be distributed to the groups</p> <p>Also agreed a need to sort out tools, CROW volunteered to do this as part of one task.</p> <p>Also a need to check health and safety equipment and dispense with out of date hard hats (once replaced)</p> <p>Discussion about grass cutter: waiting for demos to choose final machine</p> <p>There are still tools at Caversham Court. When will the Mapledurham toolstore be ready?? When the floor is finished</p> | <p>Phil: ordering 10 secateurs/10 loppers and sorting out H & S equipment</p> <p>John/Phil/tina arranging demos for grass cutters</p> <p>Phil distributing money for trees</p> <p>Phil to get Parks Dept to do floor</p> |
| 4 | <p>Events</p> <p>Rescue: please let RBC know of any hotspots or skips needed for RESCUE</p> <p>Woodlands Day : 31 May . Funding not yet through , but the event will happen although the scale depends on funding. Advertising has started. Tina is talking to the Access forum to look at getting disabled people into the woodland (across the fields to the woodland paths)</p> <p>Crafts people have been invited, refreshments sorted.</p> <p>Dog walkers are to be involved.</p> <p>Megatask 5/6 April to put better access to the woodland across the field. RBC will dig out the pathway, Vols will make the path organised by Andy. Volunteers are wanted in 2 hour blocks</p> <p>Helen (Access officer) will test drive the new path</p> <p>Spring Sale 26th April Prospect Park</p> <p>Woodland Products</p> <p>Dominic coming to do hurdles</p> | <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>All groups to supply material/ bird boxes</p> |