

**Minutes of Econet Meeting
Monday, 19th March 2012 at 7:30pm**

RBC Parks Department Offices, Prospect Park

Present:

Alan Stevens
Tricia Marcouse
Oonagh Kelleher
Judith Oliver
Anne Latto
Dave Kenny

Apologises for Absence:

John Lepiniere, Kit Brownlee , Steve Ayres, Dave Booth

1. Minutes from previous meeting (19th September 2011) were not received and therefore no matters arising from them
2. News and Updates
 - BTCV has a new 12 seater red minibus and is getting more volunteers. There is potential for this to be available for community groups in the future. BTCV has been working with CROW at Bugs Bottom on hedgelaying.
 - They were present at MERL for National Science Week biodiversity activity running a tree identification and an environmental promises tree.
 - Big Tree Funding is obtained for 6250 trees around Reading in the next 2 years: groups should identify potential sites and tell Oonagh (*Trish to check out Kings Meadow and The Coal*)
 - Anne reports that three copper Beech saplings have been offered. She will try to obtain them into pots and then we will look for sites (question whether these are really copper beech!)
 - RESCUE by Caversham Globe collected 97 sacks of rubbish. At Kings Meadow BTCV collected 23 sacks of rubbish, 9 bags recyclables, 3 trips to the bottle bank, 6 needles and a load of scarp metal.
 - Clayfield Copse had a problem with weather (snow and rain) for February and March work parties which has reduced numbers of bean poles cut for Bean Pole Day. BTCV can cut in April if necessary, Trish to check whether any could be cut from Moor Copse.
 - Emmer Green residents are putting up some carvings at Clayfield, and a memorial bench is to go in.
 - Question whether there could be a board to identify that some sites are managed by volunteers, and take diary dates for conservation activities. Clayfield notice board is always covered by other activities.
 - Friends of Mapledurham report that Reading has mown grass around the fruit trees

- CROW has been busy as ever with a good turnout. Maybe not as good as last year. Been doing hedgelaying, coppicing....
3. Bean Pole Day
- Jan Haseler has some peasticks available to sell at Bean Pole Day, Trish will coordinate with her
 - Trish to email all participants for insurance, and to do risk assessment
 - BTCV will find a volunteer for pond dipping. To tell Trish if identification keys are required
 - Trish to check whether Stella Lawson, beekeepers has been invited, and Frances Hill of Green Shoots
 - Judith to find out who is doing refreshments, and whether we can have a key for allotments, garage (and can we use the extra garage for storage) and bollards. Last year we couldn't get the ambulance in.
 - Friends of Caversham Court will not run garden tours,. Trish to get Michael Keith Lucas to do it instead of lichens (Fay Newberry will do lichen hunt)
4. Health and Safety
- Proposal to buy goggles for personal use by volunteers that want to use them
5. Accounts
- £3855 in the bank with another £420 owed plus another £50 from willow sales
 - Year's expenditure includes £500 to support volunteers (transport, tea, biscuits etc); £800 on tools (£400 to create a stache for Friends of McIlroys) ; £500 insurance, £250 first aid course. £200 to be spent on saw blades in near future
 - FOWM have closed their bank account and transferred £26.58 to Econet account. Request for money to recompense for plants bought for WM last year
 - £50 expenses agreed for treasurer
6. Dave Booth issues, related to funding, follow up by Alan
- Dave has pointed out that in the absence of the grant from RC, we get use of a tool store, and BeC pay £600 a year for theirs. Alan said that we share ours with three other groups so the value is less. There is potential for a review of the grant application to provide more core funding, but CROW would prefer to invoice RBC for work done instead.
 - The hedgelaying course this year (rather late in the season) was funded through HLS and there is a potential for RBC to pay for the 9 hedgelaying tasks from this fund (9*£40), in which case this could be used for another hedgelaying course in the autumn.
 - Questions to be raised on whether there will be continued support from Andy for Clayfield Copse work parties
7. Tools :
- No comments other than Trish suggests more secateurs

8. Publicity and events

- WaterFest will be done on 16th June

9. AOB

- Trish may make an application for Dorothy Morley award for Econet on the basis of managing important biodiversity sites and selling product plus education at Bean Pole Day and Christmas Tree sales

10. Date of next meeting (AGM):

- Wednesday 12th September at 19:30.