

Econet Meeting – Minutes

26 Nov 2002 Reading Environment Centre

Present

Steve Ayres FoMPF Chair, Philip Allen CROW FoMP minutes, Dave Kenny Cav Globe/ FoBW, John Lerpiniere CROW, Andrew Blake BTCV/Crow, John Oliver Battle Globe, Ann Latto FoCC + Oliver Burt RBC

Apologies

Mike Cox FoWM, Judith Oliver FoMPF/CC, Tricia Marcouse & Kit Brownlee RUWG, Tina Gower RBC

1. Econet meeting Agreed to correct the constitution following suggestions from Mr Bailey of FOBW:

- use 'group' throughout
- appoint officers at AGM
- Accounts & bank account kept by treasurer- Philip Allen; Chair Steve Ayers, David Kenny & John Lerpiniere are signatories for giro bank
- item 9 insert "individual" before membership

2. Oliver Burt RBC Gave an interesting talk on dealing with green waste

700-800 tonnes/month in summer (200 in winter) gets put in to the green waste bins at Small Mead by Public then composted on site for 2 months before used in the capping process can not be used off site due to variable quality although Hampshire collect & compost in a controlled way to produce soil conditioner for sale(not compost due to variable nature of product). RBC has submitted joint bid with WDC & BFBC to begin to recycle in two years time on Public donation or collection by request (like current bulky items 5 items twice a year) but not by community collection points as leads to abuse & extra work for Residents. £5000 is available for "community Development". If anyone would like to contact Oliver to find out more about this subject, he can be contacted on tel. 939 0900 or Oliver.Burt@reading.gov.uk

3. Insurance

Decided not to cover chainsaw use this time as Andrew Blake is the only operator and he has only cross cutting qualification not tree felling-(BeC has Richard Coles). This may be reviewed if other vols take up training.

- BTCV's clarification re insurance cover for walks, construction & bonfires noted & welcomed (contact Tina if you want to see a copy of these letters)
- Crow covered despite BTCV's letter of 19/11 saying no record : confirmed 28/11
- FoBW will work under Caversham Globe
- FoMP have cheque for econet insurance needing 2nd signatory (now done although Maureen has been off work for 6+weeks with broken arm etc!).

4. Health & Safety –

Tina has requested that this become a standing item on the agenda – agreed to include.

- Risk assessments would be easier on a standard form with examples – ask Tina to produce one that is similar to FOMPF's for all groups to use.

Tina also suggested that every task report should include a section to report any Near Misses that have occurred that task – then to review these at Econet to avoid accidents later. Reports of near misses on tasks since last meeting of Econet are:

- slipping in the mud at Clayfield, McIlroy
- Need to keep safe working distances at least a tree's length away with clear escape paths as BeC had a hung up tree flipped about the winching point instead of the base moving in the mud (not known of this happening before) Fortunately it got hung up in another tree so we winched from another point stopping when the stump hit any roots & shortened it (getting a saw jammed in the process) before finally winching it free.

BeC to review its standard operating procedures with winch use.

All groups to take particular care on task where mud is causing problems -- improve the surface before continuing with other work.

AOB

5. Waterways & Woodland Forum Boat Trip 10.30-3 From Blakes Lock on Thames 6/12/02
Book with Adrian Lawson tel. 0118 939 0376

6. Clayfield Woodland Day 31 May 03 Help required then and for Mega Footpath Task in April
- contact Anne Latto 0118 948 4454

7. BTCV have list of employers wanting to get workers involved ('Corporate Volunteering opportunities') so if you have a big task that needs a big turnout....tel. 0118 947 5049

8. BTCV need any corrections to Econet (Conservation Opportunities' leaflet : e mail Andrew berkshire@btcv.org.uk soon - aim to reprint in January.

9. Masterfood Awards: CROW, BeC, Newtown Globe and Friends fo McIlroy Park all won cash awards this year. More entries next year??



10. Xmas Tree sales:

- Agreed two vols needed at any one time for selling (less is unsafe, more can be intimidating to customers and will not be recorded to 'earn' the group a higher percentage of the final monies)
- Help still needed for both Fridays 13th & 20th and Sunday 15th. Please ring Tina asap to volunteer any time.
- Holly (with berries) also needed (collecting this counts as time towards the final 'earnings') - there is lots about so if you can bring some to the Centre please contact Tina to arrange delivery times/ borrow secateurs etc.
- Can anyone loan a string of outdoor lights?? (Only for use during sales not left out at any other time.) The site is very big and this may be helpful in attracting customers. (Tina will arrange to have them checked for safety before use.)



Next meeting Tuesday 25/February/03
at Reading Environment Centre 7.30pm

Tel 0118 951 3010. For any agenda items. Volunteers to take minutes needed.

Merry Christmas

& a Wonderful New Year!

Tina