

ECONET

Minutes of meeting at Reading Environment Centre 10.09.03.

Present	Steve Ayres, chair, FoMPF, John Lerpiniere, CRoW, ROC, Paul Fincher, CRoW, Dave Kenny, FoBW, Cav Globe, Beverley Forsyth, RBC,	Philip Allen, Treasurer, BeC, CRoW, Kit Brownlee, RUWG, Katrina Pengelley, BTCV, Margaret Jordan, CRoW, Judith Oliver, FoCC.
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Matters arising from last Minutes 10.06.03

Grass cutting machine - several venues were identified where this would be useful, it should tackle bramble and could be used in places inaccessible to PBC machines eg Mapledurham, Waterloo Meadows, Blundell's Copse, View Island. Money was put aside eighteen months ago. Phil and John to organise consulting Adrian Lawson.

Insurance - ECONET insurance will cover local conservation groups and is due for renewal in November, Philip to action. NEW GROUPS MUST APPLY IN WRITING TO ECONET to be included in this cover, c/o Econet, Environment Centre, Prospect Park.

Safety

No issues were brought to attention, regarded as good news.

A reminder that RISK ASSESSMENTS MUST be completed for tasks as this is a requirement of insurance.

Woodland an Waterways Forum

A question was raised as to the nature of the Forum. Town issues affecting waterways or woodlands of Reading are discussed and recommendations made to the Council. Several councillors and employees attend, presentations of current developments are made, planning applications affecting waterways and woodlands are presented. Public are encouraged to attend as the Forum exists for them to make views known. Meetings take place on a few Tuesdays each year 6.30 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre. The next meeting will be on 25 Nov.

Environment Centre

The Centre has now operated for fourteen months since the move from Caversham Court. It is not generally open as originally envisaged as there is limited need. It is staffed on Wednesdays from 9.15 as groups work from the Centre on this day, and for other occasional or regular meetings or requests including the regular Watch group for young wildlife enthusiasts 10am Sat mornings. The point of contact is Beverley Forsyth normally based at Council Offices, Darwin Road (0118) 939 0725.

Note, new locks will soon be fitted to the Centre and there will be other changes including a new photocopier, furniture and decoration.

Tools and Tasks

Some concern was expressed over tools maintenance, ideally tools should be cleaned, sharpened and oiled at the end of each task, take a sharpening steel with you on task, list all equipment taken in the book in the store and check them back in. A few tools are still held at Caversham Court and at Clayfield Copse, some new tools have been added and there is opportunity to order more as need arises.

A sorting and cleaning day will be held at the Centre on SAT 27 SEPT 10AM, all welcome.

The questions of who gets paid for conservation work undertaken and should more groups be eligible for payment were discussed. The matter will be clarified with RBC.

Christmas Sales

Money owing to groups for sales has been mostly paid, other cheques will soon be in the post.

Dates were set for this year's Christmas tree sales. PLEASE BOOK YOUR DATES/HOURS/NUMBERS ASAP with Beverley 9390725 for yourself or your group to help on these days, first come first served.

CROW will be preparing, making posters and advertising on Wed 3 Dec 10am at Prospect Park, all welcome, and will be cutting on 10th and 17th, be at the Centre by 9.30.

SELLING DATES - DEC - 9am Fri 12th Sat 13th Sun 14th Fri 19th Sat 20th

Festivals and Events

A Parks Festival will be organised at Prospect Park by an RBC team next year and will provide an opportunity for groups and individuals to participate, contribute, sell or advertise.

Beverley is to give some thought to other events which could be social, visits or talks but with the primary aim of networking with many different types of groups to raise awareness and promote activity.

Econet

The structure and constitution were looked at briefly but no recommendations were made except that meetings should be bimonthly for the short term.

NEXT MEETING WED 12TH NOV

Environment Centre, Prospect Park
6.30 for coffee and sausages
or 7.30 for the business

Reading

R64 6RL

26th July 2003

Dear Econet,

I am the Treasurer of Friends of Clayfield Copse and we would like to join to Econet group. I enclose a donation of £50. If our request to join is accepted then I will ensure our constitution is amended or replaced to bring us into line.

Yours faithfully



Peter Scudamore

Treasurer of Friends of Clayfield Copse.

FRIENDS OF PROSPECT PARK

cc DEREK NORTH,

7 Wood Green Close
Western Elms Avenue
Reading RG30 2AW
Berkshire

Tel/Fax 0118 9613498

11.11.2003

To ECONET

We of the above group wish to be included in the insurance cover for groups working under the umbrella of ECONET.

Signed:



DEREK NORTH (Chair)

MARGOT LAMBOURN

(Treasurer)

Margot: J. Lambourn