

# Natural Basingstoke.

## Committee Meeting. Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Location: Civic Offices. Time: 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

### 1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Katy Hooper All other committee members were present:

Ken MacKenzie (KM), Jeffrey Northam(KN), Kevin Parker (KP) Paul Beevers(PB) Steve Goodwin (SG) , Marion Wolstencroft (MW) and Alan Wilkinson (AW) & David Glover (DG)

### 2. New Committee Members

David Glover was welcomed to the meeting as a co-opted member of the committee.

### 3. Minutes & Matters arising from previous meeting in June

Minutes were taken as correct.

Item	Action	Action by
1	Website domain name & email addresses to be registered - <b>Done</b>	SG
2	Logo suggestions to be worked up and circulated	SG
3	BVS Registration to be completed - <b>Done</b>	KM
4	Bank Account set up to be completed - <b>Done</b>	JN
5	BTCV registration & insurance to be completed - <b>Done</b>	MW
6.	Membership documentation to be chased – existing groups	MW
7	Conservation Sites Agreement to be revised	KM/KH
8	Known experts to be invited to form advisory panel	KM

#### 1.2 Logo

Draft logo circulated with agenda. Also sent to BDBC graphics Dept for comment - feedback expected by mid August. Meanwhile draft being used in correspondence.

#### 1.6 Members

Oakley woodland group confirmation received. Only outstanding query now is Fuzzy Drove Group - chased but no reply.

#### 1.7 Conservation Sites Agreement

Copy of document with updated wording for Natural Basingstoke circulated with agenda and now considered to be in operation pending update for the County sites issue.

#### 1.8 Advisory Panel

Some potential members of panel sounded out and in agreement with proposal. Some potential advisors who are professional ecologists ( Ian White) have reservations about extent of commitment – but prepared to act as a communication channel to knowledgeable colleagues if necessary.

## 2. HCC green spaces & operating protocol with BDBC

Outcome of discussions between HCC and BDBC regarding protocols for working on sites owned by HCC and partly serviced by BDBC expected in September. Sites agreement to be reviewed at that point.

## 3. Press Launch of NB

It was agreed that the press launch of NB would be arranged for September. A suitable opportunity was required which did not clash with other things.

( note: at least 3 members of committee on vacation early Sept)

Destination Basingstoke suggests nothing else would clash apart from vintage car rally 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Sustainability community putting on Basingstoke Green Week – 14<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sept various locations.

Check if Natural Rooksdown would like to host joint launch event.

For these and other reasons NB needs an attractive explanatory brochure a.s.a.p. SG to work on initial draft circulated with agenda.

#### **4. Introduction & Invitation to potential associate organisations**

Contact with potential associate organisations to be reviewed at next meeting.

#### **5. Panel of Advisors & Invitation to panel membership**

Agreed that letter of invitation with copy of constitution and promotional leaflet to be sent to suggested panel members. It was agreed that if panel members were not already associated with a member group of NB they would be invited to become members of a NB branch.

#### **6. New Members– Invitation to join**

The existing conservation bodies for Oakley pathway, Daniel Field, Whitchurch, Millenium Meadow Whitchurch, & Cliddesden would be invited to join Natural Bastingstoke.

#### **7. New Branches - Branch formation process**

In the immediate future there is the prospect of a new group being formed at Rooksdown and possibly at Highclere. Contact and discussion with these two groups would continue over August. A Draft branch formation process had been circulated with the agenda, this would be refined along with the detailed Health & Safety good practice notes from the Sites Agreement.

#### **8. Old Group to Branch morphing - Popley and Chineham**

Both groups will be holding AGM meetings in the next 4 weeks at which the possibility of changing to a branch of NB would be offered. At the moment both groups favour a merger as a solution to their current recruitment difficulties. It is not clear how a merger would enable them to expand membership.

#### **9. Contact with Parish Councils regarding voluntary conservation activities.**

It is proposed that contact is made with the parish councils of the borough to introduce NB and its aims and to establish if there are conservation activities within these parishes which would benefit from membership of and co-ordination with NB.

Silchester PC, for example, have an active sub-committee managing the voluntary effort on Sichester Common SSSI. As these activities are managed by the PC, volunteers are presumably covered by the PC public liability insurance.

It was agreed that contact would be made in September.

*Note:* Post meeting contact with BDBC Community Development officers has established that some PCs are working on Community or Neighbourhood plans which present an opportunity for NB members input on green spaces issues.

#### **10. AOB**

**10.1 Site Plans Template** - There were now 3 examples of site management plans to draw on for a template generally available to new groups. It was agreed that a small sub-committee would work up and circulate a draft a.s.a.p.

**10.2 Funding Course** Sept 2013 It was considered highly desirable that a representative of NB should attend the 3 session course on Funding offered by BVS. Timing was the issue – in hope a volunteer could be found.

**10.3 Contact with the Land Trust Regional office** – it was agreed that Simon Pile of Land Trust would be contacted.

**10.4 PR Officer/advisor** – this role was still vacant. KM would contact BVS now that we are registered to see if they can find a volunteer to help in this area of expertise.

**10.5 Millenium Seed Bank** - PB noted that this organisation was interested in sources of Section 41 wildflower seed and if any group had particularly good areas of uncommon plants MSB may like to be notified.

#### **11. Date and location for next committee meeting.**

Next meeting agreed as Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 7.00pm in Council offices.

**See below for action items summary.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Action by</b>
1	Conservation Sites Agreement to be revised for county sites	KM/KH
2	Known experts to be invited to form advisory panel	KM
3	Contact with Rooksdown re continuing programme of events, formation of branch & launch event	MW
4	Creation of NB Brochure - draft	SG
5	Letter of invitation to new members to be agreed and sent	MW/KM
6.	Finalising New Branch documentation & discussion with Rooksdown	KM/MW/GN/DG
7	Letter to Parish Councils & Parish groups	MW/KM
8	Draft Management Plan Template development	KM/DG/MW/SG/PB
9	Search for volunteer to attend Funding Course	KM
10	Contact Land Trust re meeting with Rooksdown	MW/KM
11	Search for PR expertise through BVS	KM