



**Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group
Minutes of General Meeting
Held at the Brook Way Activity Centre, Bradley Stoke on 11 October 2006**

Present:

Hannah Watts (Chair), Rachael Ann. David Baker, Colin Blenkinsopp, Susan Boyers, Steven Callow, Martin Collier, Emma Creasey, Richard Cridland, Paul Humphreys, Robin Jones, Sara Messenger, John Morris, Ceri Pritchard

Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

Leaflets - These were now completed and had been distributed to the group; they were also available from the library. John thanked the committee for their work on the leaflet and the group also thanked John for his help.

RADAR access - the gate behind the leisure centre is fitted with a RADAR key. Another RADAR gate will be fitted to the entrance at the corner of Savages' Wood (by the brook, opposite the school fence).

Newt ponds - the ecologist responsible for transferring the newts has found 50 newts in the two new ponds, half of which are great crested newts. These will be monitored over the next 9 years and there is scope for the group to get involved - **EC/JM to follow up.**

Tool store - John and Hannah met with the school and secured permission to site a metal container in the school grounds, to which we will be given access. We have been given a grant from S. Glos Council to buy it. The school are also getting a container and ours will be next to it - however we are experiencing some delay as the school are having problems with their container. **John to keep an eye on the situation!**

Moth hunts- to be arranged for next year. **Action: John.**

Fencing work by Savage's Wood - the council are looking to do this in the winter when the vegetation dies down. In the meantime the Green Gym which has now started up on Thursdays will be doing some dead hedging.

Sign for the group - John is looking at getting an A-frame sign to erect on workdays to tell the public who we are; we may need grant funding for it in which case it would be best to include it as part of a larger grant application in the future.

Seats - No-one came forward with ideas for siting seats so the Committee will discuss this. **Action: Committee.**

Work planning

Workdays

The group agreed the following work plan for the next few months:

4 November	Tree felling in Savage's around existing coppice, to open it up further. Also remedial dead hedge work if the Green Gym do not finish it on 2 November.
2 December	Coppicing in Webb's Wood
6/7 January	Hedgelaying weekend - possibly the hedge along Bradley Stoke Way (John/Paul to decide ASAP on exact location).
3 February	Coppicing in Webb's Wood
3 March	Coppicing in Sherbourne's Brake
7 April	Wildflower survey (with Rupert Higgins? - John to arrange)
5 May	Planting heathland flowers on the Tump

The programme after May will be finalised at the April AGM but the following activities are proposed:

2 June	Stream clearing
7 July	Hay cut by Webbs Wood
4 August	Hay cut by newt ponds
1 September	Work in the marsh.

Other events

John had organised events such as an owl prowl, fungi foray and bird survey. We agreed that we would like to organise a more structured programme of educational events and surveys, to include newt trapping and a dormouse survey. **Action: Committee to discuss.**

We have not planned a bird box making day but agreed that if other groups make boxes then we can put them up in the woods during other workdays. Following Emma and Hannah's bird box survey, any new boxes put up should be numbered in sequence and their positions marked on a map.

Updates

BBC's Autumnwatch is offering up to £10K Breathing Places grant. The closing date is 13 December. The Committee will meet to discuss putting in an application. **Action: EC to arrange a committee meeting in early November.**

Following several reports from the public on sick and dying wild birds on the lake, DEFRA took 6 for testing. At least 20 birds have died including a swan and a little grebe. The birds tested negative for avian flu but DEFRA have established that a bloom of toxic blue-green algae is probably the cause. Barley bales will be put in the water - in the meantime, notices have been put up to warn the public to keep themselves and their dogs away from the water.

AOB

Posters will be put up showing information on the Three Brooks walk.

We agreed that it would be helpful to have a "flyer" to insert into our brochure, with general information and contact details about the group. It would also be useful for the group to have a generic email address which could automatically forward to the Secretary. **Action: Sara to draft flyer; John to look into email address.**

The group asked whether anyone could help with setting up a website and Robin Jones very kindly offered to do this. **Action: Robin to attend next Committee meeting.**

Baileys Court School has asked the Chair if the group could do a talk after Easter. Sara and David offered to do this. **Action: Sara and David to follow up with Hannah.**

ESC

14.10.06