**FOSP AGM held at 11.30am on Sunday 19 February 2017 in Saintbridge Rugby Club, Painswick Road, Gloucester**

**Present (13):**

Marilyn McKechnie – Chair/Treasurer

Ken Price – Vice Chair

Jane Allen – Minutes

Will Apperley

Tony Bergonzi

Paul Brunt

Charlie Burnett

Graham Carter – Website Manager

John Clarke

David John

Mike Rentell

Barbara Russell

Cate Williams – Green Abbey

1. **Welcome and apologies**

MM welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and for their work over the past year. MM informed the meeting of the location of fire escapes, toilets, and that food was available. Volunteers, CB, PB and JA were acknowledged as new members of the group.

Apologies: Marianne Bamford (new volunteer), Luke Ellis (new volunteer), Marcus Grant, Gabriel Price (young volunteer), Joseph Price (young volunteer).Richard Price, Frank Prentice & Zandra.

1. **Minutes of last AGM, 21 February 2016**

Previous Minutes accepted as a true record of the meeting.

1. **Chair’s Report – MM and WA**

Joint presentation given by MM and WA. MM commented that it had been a busy year. See separate document for full information. There was a discussion about the work done and the difference that the group has made to the Saintbridge Pond Nature Reserve.

1. **Treasurer’s Report – MM**

See separate document for full information. MM commented that there was a slight discrepancy between the actual bank balance and the bank balance in the Report; this was because of a cheque which had not yet been presented.

1. **Election of Officers**

**Chair** – MM agreed to hold the post for another year.

**Treasurer** – MM agreed to hold the post for another year.

**Secretary** – WA agreed to continue as Secretary but would appreciate a helper with the task. BR suggested that note-taking could be shared between the volunteers, working on a rota.

**Press Officer/Media Team** – TB agreed to continue in the role.

**Website Manager** – GC agreed to continue in the role.

**Health and Safety** – TB agreed to continue in the role.

**Garden Adviser** – KP agreed to incorporate this post in his role, with assistance from Don, if necessary.

**Warden** – KP oversees matters in the Nature Reserve and can now be considered as the Warden.

**Insurance Consultant** – JC agreed to continue in this role.

CB pointed out that FOSP members do not have to be restricted by their roles and can assist or make use of our skills to lighten the burden of other members of the group.

MM thanked DJ, JC, MR, BR and TB for 20 years of commitment to the group.

1. **Aspirations for 2017**

PB would like to make a log of the wildlife in the area.

The Big Clean will take place on 5 March 2017 which FOSP has registered the 5th March Workday as their contribution to the event.

JA would like to see a reduction in the amount of litter that is in the area. KP commented that there is increased footfall in the Nature Reserve, so there is bound to be more litter.

MM stated that there is an increase in the number of dog-walkers, so there is a greater amount of dog-fouling.

KP recommended that the status of the area as a recognised Nature Reserve should be publicised more greatly.

MM has made enquiries through Cllr Andrew Gravells to have more signage for Saintbridge, as many people are unaware of the existence of the Nature Reserve.

1. **Green Flag Management Plan 2017 - 2021 - MM**

MM has a copy of this Plan. Anyone wishing to see a copy of the Plan should contact MM.

KP made the suggestion that FOSP change the group’s name to include a reference to the fact that the balancing pond and surrounding area are a Local Nature Reserve. DJ commented that the group could then be adopted by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and receive support from that organisation. MM stated that an amendment to the Constitution would be required to change the name; a discussion about this will be held at later date.

1. **FOSP Profile Report – CB**

CB has compiled an annual summary report about the work that FOSP does, which will be useful as a document to give to outside bodies to inform them about the work that FOSP carries out. CB said that he requires information from other members of the group to include in this document, for example, a list of wildlife from PB.

1. **Event Timeline Plan – WA**

Details of any proposed events should be given to WA, so that he can include them on the Timeline.

JC suggested carrying out work on the two islands. DJ said that on the morning of the AGM he saw workers thinning the trees on the small island; after enquiring what work they were doing they said they were sub-contractors, working on behalf of the Council. MM stated that she has approached the Fire Service regarding doing work on the large island.

1. **Green Abbey - CW**

CW said that she has an idea - still in development - about caring for green spaces, for example, along the edges of the brooks and around the gardens of the old hospital. CW would like people in the community to be helped to appreciate the area, in the hope they will take care of it. CW said that Green Abbey organised a community picnic in Barnwood Arboretum with assistance from Barnwood Trust and in conjunction with Invite a Tree to Tea. CW stated that Green Abbey has three dates planned for this year: Big Butterfly Watch in July; community picnic; Apple Day in the orchard. Green Abbey may build on these ideas for next year. CW wishes to be aware of what other groups are doing in the community and would be interested in forming links between environmental groups. MM and CW agreed to keep each other informed of what their group is doing, in case activities would be suitable for both groups.

1. **FOSP website - GC**

GC observed that the website needs more content, as there are sections on it that are empty; the alternative is to remove the unused sections. GC suggested that websites are now giving way to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, so perhaps FOSP needs to keep pace with these changes and integrate social media into the publicity that it does. GC commented that the website needs information of interest on it – details about what has happened and what is going to happen – and should provide the opportunity for users to engage when using the website.

GC suggested introducing the facility to make donations, for example, through ‘Give’, on the website. He also discussed PayPal.

GC advised that there should be a FOSP members’ area for the storage of information for members’ use. CB commented on the need to protect people’s details on the website.

GC suggested getting people to subscribe to the website, so that they can be alerted to what is going on at Saintbridge Nature Reserve.

CB proposed that Google advertisements would be a way of making some revenue.

CB agreed to provide his Report before the Green Flag visit, then arrange a walkabout meeting with GC to view any issues which could be sorted before the judge’s visit.

GC requested photographs and comments that could be included in the website.

BR asked whether FOSP has a Mission Statement and was reminded that it is on the website and stated in the constitution.

It was agreed that WA will send Minutes of meetings to GC for inclusion on the website.

MM thanked GC for his work in maintaining the website.

1. **AOB**

Marilyn thanked the volunteers for their help over the year and presented gifts to the five volunteers who have assisted for twenty years: DJ, JC, MR, BR and TB. Gifts were also provided for WA and Gabriel and Joseph Price.

Date of next meeting: Sunday 5 March 2017 (Workday), the Big Clean.

Jane Allen

20.02.2017