



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 23 FEBRUARY 2016

Attendees: Richard Denney (Chair), Dave Kenny, Jim McMaster, Malcolm Moye, Margaret Skinner, Phil Bagge, Caroline Langdon, Vicki Abel, Kay Perry, Chris Webster.

Apologies for absence: Judith Barratt, Isabella Pietrzak, Jean Newbery, Margaret Ormonde (EGRA)

1. Minutes of 26 January 2016 Approved - matters arising as follows:

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

2a) Planters on Church Street – litter and related debris was cleared by Isabella and Len, thanks.

2b) Hill's Meadow: Still no progress about concerns re the very slow or not flowing Danall. Thames21 are awaiting replies from RBC and Environment Agency about removing the accumulated silt under the bridge at the end of Wolsey Road that is thought to be impeding flow. Thames21 event was held on 21 February during which volunteers cleared fallen logs, other natural debris and some litter from about two thirds of the length of the Danall. **Review next meeting.**

2c) Christchurch Meadows

c1. Ground reinstatement not completed, with some grassed areas waterlogged by the new bridge as well as near George Street entrance; also by the Gosbrook Road entrance where heavy machinery churned up the grass edge next to path. Action unlikely until late spring when ground may have dried out. **Keep in view**

c2. Demolition work on the Laundry site has impinged on the park boundary. **RBC** has confirmed it is aware that 2 gates from private property have been erected in fencing from Cardinal Close. **Keep in view**

c3. A volunteer is needed to take up the suggestion made at November 2015 meeting that the current RBC Christchurch Meadows Management Plan (see pdf sent with minutes) needs wild flower areas - this needs **somebody in GLOBE other than usual activists** to take the lead and work to bring ideas to fruition. Richard has written to the Parks Supervisor suggesting the planting but no reply received to date. **Chris Burden is going to contact J C Decaux** about the triangle of grass on corner of George Street and whether GLOBE could plant wild flowers there. **Review at next meeting.**

2d) View Island - View Island has been included in a list of suggested **local development sites** for potential building land. This is contrary to its current designation and likely to be extremely controversial locally as View Island is not only a nature reserve but a zone 3 flood plain [i.e. Maximum flood risk]. **See item 3c in next page for Local Plan consultation starting Feb 2016**

2e) Balmore Walk – work party on Mon 8 February at 10 am did some litter picking and added to some hedging in 2 areas at the south end of park. Thank you to the 4 people who took part and the 2 children who did some good work too.

2f) Caversham old cemetery Hemdean Road – Chris Webster described how this local wildlife site has had excessive work done to the mature trees and vegetation, causing much disturbance to habitats and ruining some areas. Also of concern is that many gravestones have been laid horizontally because they were considered unsafe. No public notices were displayed to give advance warning that this work had been intended. **Chris has written to the local press and is contacting RBC to pursue these matters.**

Kay Perry suggested contacting the primary school to find out if they use this old cemetery for any wildlife or history studies, particularly as the site is right next to the school. Kay will draft and send letter in liaison with Richard. **Review at next meeting**

2g) 2 horse chestnuts in Church Road have been removed and the question arises as to replacement. **Vicki & Dave are pursuing with RBC.**

3. Planning matters

a) **Application number 151715** The installation of two Archimedean Screw Turbines with a hut covering the generators, gearboxes and the control system (hydropower infrastructure); also the construction of a fish pass on View Island. **Keep in view**

b) **Application number 152277** Former Arthur Clark site Albert Road – Malcolm is studying the detail and will liaise with Dave who is constructing GLOBE objections and comments, these will cover concerns about the building and tree issues. **Review March meeting**

c) **RBC revised Local Plan** is now being consulted on at the early formulation stage. Suggested sites for development in Caversham include View Island and Caversham Weir and the Rowing club site in Abbotsmead Place. There are also changes to designations for protected green spaces. The RBC consultation meeting on Tuesday 16th February was attended by 6 GLOBE supporters as well as other residents and CADRA & EGRA members. GLOBE's response is being drafted by Dave, with input from others. **Review at March meeting**

4. Finance Matters

a) **Agreed that we would change all of the GLOBE group's banking arrangements** to Natwest for more convenient usage. **Dave and other key members to proceed as soon as convenient.**

5. Environmental Issues

a) **Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs)**. New dates of EVAs for our areas have been published and will be emailed to GLOBE supporters shortly. **CLOSED**

b) **Please report to RBC all litter, fly tipping and similar problems** via smart phone app or web link at <http://loveclean.reading.gov.uk> or www.fixmystreet.co.uk **Alternatively please phone RBC Contact Centre on 0118 937 3797 HELP KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN – please use these - encourage others to do it to**

6. RESCUE dates 4 to 6 March 2016. Bi-annual Rivers and **Environmental Spaces Clean Up Event** organised by Reading Borough Council's Neighbourhood Officers for volunteer groups, residents and workers to join in a major litter clean up across the borough. On Friday 4 March 10 am we plan to work in central Caversham near Abbotsmead Place/School Lane and Promenade Road, including nearby alleys and footpaths and riverside. Meet by the BT Exchange in Church Street at 10 am. On Saturday 5 March 10 am we are meeting by the recycling bins in Hill's Meadow intending to work on View Island and Hill's Meadow, including the George Street embankment on Hill's Meadow side and the Christchurch Meadow side. A clean up at Bugs Bottom will be held at 10.30am on Saturday 12 March. **Update at March meeting**

Next meeting Tuesday 22 March 2016 from 7 pm in Church House, Caversham
(tea/coffee from 7pm - meeting starts promptly at 7.15pm)