



MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF CAVERSHAM GLOBE MEETING 26 APRIL 2016

Attendees: (Chair) Richard Denney, Dave Kenny, Phil Bagge, Vicki Abel, Dean Ezra, Jim McMaster, Kay Perry, Margaret Skinner, Lin Godfrey, Bob Busby, Colin Potts. From CAMRA for Item 2c4 ONLY re Organisation of the Beer Festival – Pat Rapley & Dave Sutton..

Apologies for absence: Judith Barratt, Jean Newbery, Chris Burden, Malcolm Moye, Isabella Pietrzak

1. Minutes of 22 March 2016 Approved - matters arising as follows:

2. Parks and Open Spaces and Tree issues:

2a) Planters on Church Street – ongoing tidying and maintenance continues. Geraniums and petunias will soon need adding to supplement the perennials. **Work party will be needed; any volunteers please?**

2b) Hill's Meadow: the very slow flowing Danall. RBC is considering action to remove the accumulated silt under the bridge at the end of Wolsey Road that is thought to be impeding flow. **No progress – keep in view.**

2c) Christchurch Meadows

c1. Ground reinstatement not completed, with some grassed areas waterlogged near the new bridge as well as near George Street entrance and by the Gosbrook Road entrance. RBC is getting quotes from contractors for this work. **Keep in view**

c2. RBC has confirmed that new gates from private property onto RBC parkland will not be allowed. **CLOSED**

c3. Suggestion made at November 2015 meeting that Christchurch Meadows needs wild flower areas has been refused by RBC Parks even after appeal. **Chris Burden has contacted J C Decaux** about the triangle of grass on corner of George Street and whether GLOBE could plant wild flowers there. **Review next meeting.**

C4. CAMRA Beer Festival – Dave Sutton and Pat Rapley explained the site set-up, layout and various precautions for damage prevention e.g. a metal road for vehicles, rainwater drainage, use of bark chippings and the undertaking to clear their site and reinstate the meadows subsequently. No matters of concern remained and attendees were content with reassurances given. **Review at May Meeting**

2d) Balmore Walk – National Cycle Route milepost millennium sign badly damaged by machinery used during RBC hedge maintenance work. (Photo available). Awaiting repair or replacement. **Review next meeting.**

2f) Caversham old cemetery Hemdean Road – Previous meetings had heard from Chris Webster 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 over 50 gravestones have been laid horizontally because they were considered unsafe. A site meeting with 2 RBC Parks Officers was attended by Dave Kenny and Chris Webster. The outcome was still considered unsatisfactory and GLOBE is considering how to proceed. An RBC Management Plan is to be provided. **Review next meeting**

Kay Perry reported back following her approach to local schools about use of the old cemetery for wildlife/ecology studies; it seems that there is little interest at present. Local state schools have limited programmes and activities. However, Kay was invited to visit Hemdean House School to see their activities being taken to engage with the natural environment, including veg and flower cultivation, wildlife flora and fauna areas with a pond. There are links with BBOWT, RSPB and RHS and the school has joined in with projects such as The Tulip Test Garden from Journey North, Rocket Seeds and the RHS Campaign for School Gardening. It also achieved the Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Gold Award. **See more detail post on GLOBE Facebook page or contact Kay Perry.**

2g) 2 horse chestnuts in Church Road were felled but stumps await grinding out and replacement may be in 2016/2017 or earlier if a species resistant to fungus is used. **Vicki & Dave pursuing with RBC.**

2h) Mapledurham Playing Fields – School site proposed. Awaiting formal application for planning permission to be able to review/comment/object accordingly. **Keep in view**

2i) Stream/ditch near Richfield Avenue and through the Rivermead site. Dave has photos of litter, pollution and clogging along this watercourse, which has shared responsibility between RBC and GLL who run the leisure centre. An ecological survey is being done by RBC and results are awaited. **Keep in view**

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 and Dave have submitted GLOBE objections and comments on our concerns about the building height and tree loss. A TPO on a limited number of trees is likely. **Keep in view**

c) Clearwater Court 160295 Limited planning permission granted but trees to be maintained. **CLOSED**

d) Cooper /BMW site on Kings Meadow Road 160326. Demolition of commercial buildings and 3 year licence for temporary car park. Noted that some trees will now be retained. **CLOSED**

4. Finance Matters

Dave confirmed that GLOBE has changed its banking arrangements to Natwest. **CLOSED**

5. Environmental Issues

a) Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs).EVAs for our areas continue to be attended by Dave, Jim and others, accompanying the RBC Neighbourhood Officers to spot issues needing attention. **Ongoing**

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.**

c) Cleaner Caversham Campaign – It was commented that parts of central Caversham are grubby and unkempt, with litter continuing to occur. Regular street sweeping is not done in some areas; relatively minor factors such as overgrown hedging, accumulation of general debris/litter and untidy shop frontages all contribute to a general feeling that there are opportunities to improve this. **IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS??**

6 Street lamps and light levels. We discussed some further information about LED street lighting that Richard had sent out from the lobbying group on this matter, which had been raised by a concerned campaigner who had contacted GLOBE about a growing national campaign against the potentially harmful effects of cool-white/blue-rich LED lighting. GLOBE supporters can make up their minds what action the group could take. **Thoughts on this welcome please and we'll discuss next meeting.**

Next meeting Tuesday 24 May 2016 at 7.15pm in Church House, Caversham
(refreshments from 7 pm)