



Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes from AGM and quarterly meeting on Monday 6th July 2015

Bradford Playhouse, 4-12 Chapel St, Bradford BD1 5DL, basement bar, 19:00 – 20:30.

Item	Actions
AGM	
<p>1. Present: Pauline Ford, Elizabeth MacDonald, Rose Reeve, Geoff Roberts, Wendy Robinson, Irene Lofthouse, Kevin Sunderland, Gary Rushworth, Stuart Jenkinson, David Brazendale, Ed Butterworth, Colin Fine, Sara Dixon, James Craig, Barney Lerner</p> <p>Welcomed Gary Rushworth, project officer for urban pollution</p> <p>2. Apologies. Graham Glover, Eddie Lawler, David Pendleton, Dave Mould, Francis Wilson, Jane Callaghan</p>	
<p>3. Election of officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Barney Lerner re-elected as Chair b. After some discussion, it was agreed that no other officers were required at this stage <p>Note: we also have chairs/coordinators/leaders of the various working groups and activities: City centre plaques – Ed Butterworth, Footpaths and walks – Rose Reeve, Invasives - Francis Wilson, Pollution – Barney Lerner, Restoration – Barney Lerner, Litter picks – Graham Glover, Festivals and exhibitions – Irene Lofthouse</p>	
<p>4. There are no accounts as all our finances go through ART (Aire Rivers Trust). However here are some of the items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outline design of Poplar Rd restoration design: £6600 from EA (spent!) b. Photo competition: 10 donations of £25 for prizes + £49.69 collection + £623 grant c. Poetry competition: Various donations £690 d. Donation from Saltaire Striders: £400 and Asda £50 e. Various expenditures such as room hire (typically £22/meeting), exhibition boards (£200), poetry prizegiving ~£450) <p>Overall, we spend slightly more than we receive and are supported by ART.</p> <p>We have been awarded £38,500 for the Urban Pollution project, just about to start.</p>	

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<p>5. Review of the past year - Chair's report.</p> <p>Invasives. Four people trained in pesticide use. Catchment surveyed, treatment of many areas of Japanese Knotweed undertaken. Support provided by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and INNS group, Environment Agency, Thomas Mackay and volunteers.</p> <p>Pollution monitoring. Visual and photographic monitoring of multiple outfall sites by volunteers. Problems reported to Yorkshire Water and action taken to cure misconnections.</p> <p>Photo competition. A successful competition in autumn 2014: good photos, new members and publicity in T&A. Thanks to all those who donated prizes and special thanks to Rose who did most of the work in organising the competition and exhibition.</p> <p>Plaques project. Good progress being made, with 9 sponsors (of 15) in place. Plaques designed, stone ordered, sculptor commissioned, arrangements made with Westfield about their sites including one brass casting, agreement with Bradford Council to install plaques. A huge effort by Ed deserves special recognition.</p> <p>Poetry competition. Part of the plaques project, although not part of our original plan. A success, with lots of entries, new donations, new members, lots of publicity, and a prize-giving party. FOBB poetry was star of the Ilkley Literature Festival Words in the City event in Waterstones with audience of 50. With thanks to Colin for donating the prize, the judges for their work, and Ed for organisation.</p> <p>Exhibitions. Photo exhibition held in Kirkgate shopping centre and then in CBMDC Jacob's Well and EA offices. The poetry competition exhibition has been created and is touring libraries thanks to Irene. A general display on FOBB organised and manned by Rose at the Shipley Heritage Day in July. FOBB activities and renaturalisation display at the opening of the Canal Rd cycleway in May.</p> <p>Litterpicks. 21st March and 9th May. Still lots to collect!</p> <p>Beckwalk. About 20 came on a very informative walk in Heaton Woods and Red Beck on 7th June, including many new faces.</p> <p>Renaturalisation project. A outline design for renaturalisation between Briggate and Poplar Road has been prepared, thanks to EA for sponsorship and JBA (David Mould) for the keenly priced and high quality work. Bradford Council (Assistant Director Julian Jackson) are positively supportive.</p> <p>Wading to Shipley. FOBB members are pleased to have seen this great video by Steve Bottoms being shown at Shipley Street Festival</p>	

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<p>and elsewhere.</p> <p>Riverfly sampling. Thanks to Steve Cheetham for organising training of volunteers for this invertebrate monitoring scheme, and setting up monitoring of sites on the Beck.</p> <p>Council attitudes. Positive attitudes in the council to FOBB in general, with specific help on plaques, pollution monitoring and renaturalisation. After a lot of lobbying by Kevin, planning officers seem to have taken on board that further culverting of Becks is not acceptable, and turned down a planning application in Silsden.</p> <p>What a lot we've done!</p>	
6. Minutes of last year's AGM accepted.	

Quarterly meeting – plans for the coming period	
Item	Actions
<p>1. Poetry and plaques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Anthology to be published soon b. 9 sponsors so far: Ed, Sara and Jane hunting for more. More suggestions to Ed please c. Invoicing starts tomorrow d. Wendy & Geoff building website e. Leaflet and podcast planned to describe walks f. Crowdfunding: Barney will organise appeal. If sufficient funds raised, can include information board, Becks signposts out west, and even listening post (which could relate to the Bradford boar story). Irene volunteered to help Barney with video 	Ed, Sara, Jane, Wendy, Geoff, Irene, Barney
<p>2. Exhibitions and festivals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Travelling exhibition has got seven more libraries to visit b. Hoping to get a slot at Ilkley Literature Festival 	Irene

<p>3. Invasives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Some discussion about setting up the team as a social enterprise to enable them to get contract work from landowners. Francis to discuss with team. b. Retreatment will be required of all places treated last year, and wider area at Bull Greave Beck (which probably needs help from landowners and Council). c. Plantracker app (iPhone and Android) is a good way to report locations of invasive plants in general, also tell Francis Wilson (franmw@btinternet.com) 	Francis
<p>4. Footpaths and Beckwalks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 12th July in Thornton area b. Walks booklet stalled but will restart! 	Rose
<p>5. Urban pollution monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Focus on misconceptions, then education, then group building b. Will use advisory group to connect with agencies c. Education resource – what is the best audience (plumbers, car washes, parents, schools, riparian owners, etc). To be discussed with teachers. Link up with Ribble Trust educational officer. d. Upper catchment group building – consider South Sq Gallery 	Gary to meet up with Irene and Wendy for advice on education
<p>6. Renaturalisation project for Poplar Rd area. Next steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Start local consultations b. Get Bradford to release funds for a contaminated land survey c. Discuss funding sources for matched funding, for example from flood budgets 	Barney and David
<p>7. Any other business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Barney knows what ART is bidding for. Stuart has provided a list of potential funders. b. Where be Boggarts? 	Barney to send funding list to Irene. Ideas to Irene for her next book.
<p>8. Minutes of last meeting. Agreed, no matters arising not already dealt with</p>	Barney
<p>9. Next meetings – Monday 28th Sept, 7th Dec, 7th March. Provisionally agreed</p>	Barney