



## Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Friends of Emersons Green Park

Held at the Langley Arms on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 at 7pm

Present:

Members: Chris Sunderland (Chair), Sharon Bonson (Treasurer), Venetia and David Rodgers, Joy and Tony Flood, Roberta Sunderland, Sue Andrews, Amparo Herrero, Chris Griffiths, Amanda Faramus, Mark Griffiths, Sue Fenton, Graham Johnson

Also in attendance: Kirsty Newberry – Parks Coordinator, South Glos Council

The minutes of last years meeting were approved, proposed Sharon Bonson, seconded David Rodgers

### 1. Review of the year:

**The Orchard** - our group has grown substantially this year, meeting each week on Thursday mornings. It has benefited particularly from Christine Griffiths' skills as a woodland volunteer in making various hazel structures, like tree guards and the recent dead hedge and from Amanda's help with our social media profile. We have new wildflower and herb beds, a log pile habitat and have cut back much of the deep undergrowth.

**Ecology Survey** – Bobbie masterminded a survey of wild plants in the park and Emersons Green Common. Several members were involved and over 60 wild plants species identified. We hope to survey insects, birds, moths, trees and bats in the future.

**The Three Greens Festival** was held for the first time this September, was clearly appreciated by the community and encouraged an interest in the natural world. We have collected feedback on this project separately. The Library recorded more than 400 visits during the day.

### Finance

Sharon reported that the current assets of the group stood at £581 on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. We have raised grants and received other support from both South Glos Council and Emersons Green Town Council, particularly in association with the festival. Our accrued assets are largely due to fundraising activities and donations.

### 2. Management Committee members

The Chair pointed out that it being two years since the foundation of the group, the management committee was due to be re-elected. Tony Flood and Amparo Herrero had indicated their intention to stand down, while Christine Griffiths and Amanda Faramus were willing to stand for election. The following were thereby elected to serve on the management committee: Chris Sunderland, Sharon Bonson, Sue Andrews, Venetia Rodgers, David Rodgers, Bobbie Sunderland, Christine Griffiths and Amanda Faramus.

### **3. Plans for next year:**

**Village Hall:** We have previously been asked to help with some land on the West side of the Village Hall, but did not have available resources at the time. With the expansion of the orchard group we are planning to offer to take this on and are submitting initial sketches to both South Glos and the Village Hall for approval..

**Willow Dome:** We are proposing to create a living willow dome on the patch of grass between the playgrounds and the central pond. We have already discussed this with John Morris of South Glos and Kirsty Newberry and have submitted initial ideas, which include wood chippings as the base of the dome, paths leading to it, surrounded by wildflowers. Our hope is to progress this over the winter period when willow planting is most favoured.

**Wildlife interest gatherings:** Tony suggested we might like to hold some wildlife interest gatherings during the winter period. There was support for this idea and Bobbie suggested asking Matt Lipton of South Glos to talk about wildlife corridors.

**Festivals and other events:** We discussed whether or not to hold a major festival next year and decided we would, but would move the date to June when we were more likely to get good weather. June 18<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date. Lyde Green are to be consulted to see if they would like to join in again and so make it a Three Greens Festival. Chris noted the importance of ensuring the Lyde Green Community Association were actively involved as well as Lyde Green Open Space. The meeting liked the idea of one major festival in the year supported by a number of other seasonal events involving the community and developing our interest and understanding of nature.

#### **Other ideas:**

Bobbie is interested in the idea of encouraging wildlife in gardens around the area.

Sue Andrews suggested that we consider developing a sensory garden, possibly in the formal area where there is already disabled access. Chris said he would be pleased if some disabled people were involved in this from the design stage. Sue has experience of people with dementia.

We recognised the need to develop the pebbled stones garden further.

Sue suggested bulb planting as a means of community engagement. Bobbie noted this was a good means of involving young ones in the orchard. The Village Hall groups might also plant bulbs in their patch.

We could do a harvest festival type event in the autumn period next year.

#### **AOB**

Sharon enquired about the pollution in the stream. Chris reported that South Glos have been unable to resolve this so far. Chris offered to consult councillors as to how to solve this.

Sharon also noted that Trolleywise were effective at removing trolleys. Amanda suggested she post the link on the Facebook group.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

