



Minutes of Bristol Tree Forum Committee Meeting 6 September 2021

In attendance: Mark Ashdown (Chair), Stephanie French, Dougal Matthews, Vassili Papastavrou (Secretary), Jim Smith (vice Chair) John Tarlton (treasurer), Chris Wallace (Datasmith and ToB website). Richard Ennion (BCC)

Apologies: Sean Harding

Agenda

1. **Reports From Officers.** John Tarlton reported that there is £5,700 in the bank account. In addition, there has been a donation of £350 to plant a large form street tree in Redland once a planting opportunity becomes available. The nursery we used for the oak giveaway last year is not able to sell this year, so John is looking into alternatives. Vassili reported that he will now develop ideas for the workshop to look at building next to existing trees for which £1,500 has been earmarked. Chris reported that the tree moisture sensor project is progressing well.
2. **Richard Ennion updated the group on BCC Tree Planting plans** which are varied (eg orchards, creating wood pasture and other urban planting). Richard also introduced the Trees for Streets sponsorship programme which is national and BCC is considering signing up to this. Richard briefly introduced the Birmingham master planning approach. Mark concluded this part of the discussion by thanking John Atkinson and his tree planting colleagues for all their excellent work
3. **Meeting with BCC (Mark & John).** This meeting is scheduled to happen on 5th October.
4. **Report back from Tree champions meeting.** Stephanie and Jim reported that 34 Tree Champions have now been recruited and three Zoom calls have now been held which several champions have participated in. Those that attended were very complimentary about the information the BTF website and the meeting content.
5. **Section 106 Funding for Tree Planting via Area Committees.** Mark noted that it was unfortunate that the BTF was not invited to Area Committee meetings to discuss tree planting proposals that we had developed. This appears to have been an oversight and we may be invited in the future. There is £10 Million of unallocated Section 106 money of which £1 Million can be spent on parks.
6. **Downs Ash Succession proposal and the letter to the Downs Committee.** It was agreed that John should try and get support from the FODAG, Woodland Trust and the Forest of Avon Trust for a letter to the Downs Committee
7. **Proposal to plant many trees in St Pauls to address very low tree canopy there.** Current canopy is 7% but there are places where trees can be planted. The AWT has £1.7 Million to spend on planting trees in more deprived areas and the BTF should develop a proposal for funding to be spent there
8. **There was discussion of the BCC Golden Motion** to protect the Green Belt and open spaces. The motion was adopted by Full Council the day after the committee meeting.



9. Ongoing issues

- Baltic Wharf update (John)
- St Christopher's School development which is at the consultation stage (John)
- Planning Inquiry. Former Police dog and horse training centre (Clanage Road)
- Bristol Zoo: the carpark planning application has been accepted on what was described as "brownfield land" despite having a number of important trees which will be removed.
- 7. Any other business