

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) - Annual General Meeting 2021

Sunday 5 December at 14.00 via Zoom

Present: Tim Wickstead (chair), John Holland (secretary), Steve Fay (treasurer), Laura and David Demery, Sara Townsend, Bridget Everett, Christine Cox, Tess Green, Roy Gallop, Stephen Mason, Lizzi Testani

Apologies for absence: Ed Hall, Angie Parker, Phil Cass, David Ludlow, Jacqui Furneaux, Cynthia Palmer, Elizabeth Jackson, Guy Malkerson, Rob Stellinga

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Actions</i>
	Tim Wickstead welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this was the second AGM held within 12 months, due to unusual circumstances imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic	
	Apologies for absence These had been received from people whose names appear above.	
1.	Minutes of the last AGM: held on 19 January 2021 - their approval and any matters arising Item 5: an update about the cost of the website is included in the Chair's report. Item 8: no further action The minutes were approved as a true record: proposed by Bridget; seconded by Tim.	
2.	Financial report Steve had submitted the accounts which Tim presented and highlighted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total income: £1234.00 - Total expenditure: £267.35 - New balance b/f: £2115.24 – which includes the two grants from 'Your Park' and 'Secret Gardens' which total £1150 	
3.	Election of the committee for 2022 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bridget explained that, due to work commitments, she would like to step aside from her role as Social Media Correspondent but would be happy to share the role if someone will volunteer to help. ii. Tim reported that thanks to the improved website, social media posts etc, FrANC now has 200 members. He has recently been approached by a UWE student asking if we can offer an internship; also a Polish writer and director who is keen to support FrANC through her work. Stephen suggested that we share the task of meeting people like this and discuss how best to utilise their skills. This was agreed. iii. Tim pointed out that committee meetings as such have not been possible over the past year due to the pandemic; however, a Focus Group has co-ordinated the work of FrANC to ensure that various projects have progressed and Tim thanked everyone for their support during difficult times. iv. Stephen suggested that we write a short article about the work of FrANC (letter picking and the Butterfly Junction project etc) for publication in 'South Bristol Voice' and 'The Pigeon'. Agreed 	Bridget to post a message on WhatsApp John to email all FrANC members, asking for volunteers – and for H&S training required for litter picking

	<p>v. Steve explained that his role as Treasurer requires a formal structure with a Chair and Secretary. Lizzi supported this and it was agreed by all.</p> <p><i>The Committee/Focus Group for 2021/2022 is as follows:</i> Chair: Tim Wickstead Secretary: John Holland Treasurer: Steve Fay Website: Laura Demery Butterfly Junction Gardening Project: Guy Malkerson <i>Other Focus Group members:</i> Tess Green and Roy Gallop, Lizzi Testani, Bridget Everett, David Ludlow, Ed Hall, Joanne Weston.</p>	Tim/John
4.	<p>Chair's report for the past year Tim read his report which was accepted by all present and will be available on the FrANC website.</p>	
5.	<p>Plans for coming year</p> <p>i. Community gardening project at Butterfly Junction. Tim thanked Guy in his absence for all he is doing to lead this – all very well organised. A meeting is being held on 6 January to plan the next actions and agree a safeguarding policy which is required as part of the grant. Lizzi suggested that we might organise Christmas tree 'chipping' in future years in order to produce mulch. Sara explained that St Peter's Hospice do this and raised £27k last year by selling bags of chippings. Tess suggested that the brambles etc could also be 'chipped'.</p> <p>ii. New information signs. Tim explained how this had come about – a walk around the New Cut in June which had identified 16 possible locations for new signs which present historical or natural history information. The signs will be aimed at a younger audience; A4 or similar size (square?); eye-catching in design; colourful; a trail which family groups could follow ('A Short Cut' – 1, 2, 3 etc); with QR codes to provide links to more information. Rob Fuller, a local designer/graphic artist, is very keen to work with us on this and has met Tim and John. Rob was unable to attend the meeting so Tim showed slides which Rob had prepared to give an idea of how the signs might look. Discussion took place – everyone very positive about the idea. Lizzi suggested using a spectrum of colours which reflect those found along the New Cut. Stephen pointed out the importance of the balance of text and background so that the wording is clear. Tim invited suggestions for possible signs – the 'Top 7' – to be emailed to him by early January.</p> <p>iii. Dates for litter picking: Saturdays 15 January, 19 February, 12 March</p>	<p>All</p> <p>John to notify Steve Clampin (BCC)</p>
6.	<p>Any other business None</p>	

The Chair declared the AGM closed at 15.30