

Friends of the Avon New Cut (FrANC) Committee meeting:

Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 12 February 2025

Present: Andrew Jenkins, Laura Demery, Lizzi Testani, Phil Cass

Apologies: Ed Hall

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Ed Hall

2. Minutes of the last meetings (AGM & Committee) -approval and matters arising

Minutes of last meeting (AGM & committee) were approved.

Actions from **24 September meeting** reviewed as follows:

In progress

- More bins needed near Gaol Ferry – updated **ACTION** Lizzi to include request / suggestion for bins near Gaol Ferry bridge within next communication to Steve Clampin

Completed

- Guy to pick up Good gym proposal – action closed
- Guy to connect Andrew with Bristol Canoe Club re boat litter pick offer - action closed
- Laura booking room for AGM, thank you Laura
- Laura to change Bristol Parks Forum main contact from John Holland, but another update is required, see below.
- Laura to set up mailing for October litterpick – action closed
- Minutes / agenda to be sent via PDF in future - action closed
- Recruitment of new committee members – action closed.

Actions from **AGM** were reviewed as follows:

Outstanding

- Andrew to reach out to the council to bring more influence for FrANC updated to **ACTION** Andrew to request for information from ecologist on how the impact of works on wildlife is being mitigated

In progress

- Lizzi and Andrew to do a fundraising drive – some steps have been taken to contact local businesses but no response received yet – therefore committee agreed the following:
ACTION Andrew to reconnect with ASDA,
ACTION Lizzi to submit an application to Womble Bond Dickinson fund (targeting £985 for 12 months volunteer costs)
ACTION Andrew contact Stuart Hatton to explore possibility of sponsorship from Wapping Wharf.
- Laura to include option to donate on emails – for future consideration.

Complete

- Guy to follow up with Tree Officer re funding for trees – response from Helen estimates tree planting by sewage plant will take place next year - Action closed
- Laura to keep in mind Ben Barker interest in bird survey – FrANC committee to seek members / formalise approach in future. Laura has honed approach to surveying bird species and is willing to continue with monitoring. The committee discussed the potential to involve FrANC members to share sightings, including via FrANC's photos whatsapp group and iNaturalist (app).
- Lizzi and Andrew action to publicise FrANC to younger generation and reach new members Action closed – The committee is pleased that recent media coverage and additional outreach via local whatsapp groups has increased volunteer numbers for litterpickers with a good range of diversity in age. The committee hopes to continue this trend and will seek media coverage periodically (as necessary) to continue high levels of participation and membership
- Laura to consider whether we move to MetroBank – this decision was reviewed by committee who have decided to take no immediate decision regarding the bank account but instead on fundraising and meanwhile **ACTION** Phil to enquire about Yvonne's from Bedminster Station Gardening Group's experience with Metrobank

3. Committee roles

Changes to the committee:

- Committee co-opted **Phil** as a general committee member and welcomed him to the committee.
- **Guy** has formally stepped down from committee and the role of Secretary.
- **Lizzi** volunteered and the committee agreed to appoint her as Secretary (alongside role of Vice Chair).

ACTION Laura to update Bristol Parks Forum with Lizzi as named contact

ACTION Laura to resend login information and Lizzi and Andrew to re-gain access to general enquiries / contact inbox

4. Treasurer's report – Laura

Treasurer's report reviewed, which confirms amount of £653.80 in the bank.

The committee agree that FrANC's main expense is for volunteer refreshments and our ambition is to cover hot drinks expenses for all FrANC activities (both gardening and litter picking) but this is contingent on success with fundraising activities.

ACTION Andrew to speak to Guy about covering costs of refreshments for Butterfly Junction project group – and our ambition for consistent approach to reimbursing costs across all FrANC activities.

5. Butterfly Junction project update – Laura (via Guy)

Guy provided an update via email on the Butterfly Junction project: Recent sessions have been good - the group has an intrepid and devoted band of hard working community gardeners and the project mostly runs itself. The yare currently are pushing back the brambles, ivy, etc up until about March/April when they don't go inside the barrier anymore. This is to help the butterflies and other pollinators thrive in the tall grass environment that they love.

ACTION Lizzi to speak to Sue and Matthew at upcoming litter pick to see whether they would be interested in joining the committee to provide a direct link with community gardening group/activity.

6. Litter picking update – Lizzi

This season's monthly litter picks have been well attended, especially in recent months. The group has been collecting lots of litter and provided good social occasions too. A good relationship with the BCC parks department remains in place, with BCC providing FrANC with refuse sacks and collecting loads once picks have been completed. Lizzi has contacted Steve to request some replacement bag hoops and additional refuse sacks. The committee agreed that March will be our last regular pick of the 24/25 winter season, with regular picks restarting in the Autumn.

Litter around the New Cut to be monitored by members and ad hoc summer picks can be arranged if there are issues.

7. Any other business

The next committee meeting has been agreed for Tuesday 20 May at Laura's house.

ACTIONS	STATUS
Lizzi to include request / suggestion for bins near Gaol Ferry bridge within next communication to Steve Clampin	
Andrew to request for information from ecologist on how the impact of works on wildlife is being mitigated	
Andrew to reconnect with ASDA	
Lizzi to submit an application to Womble Bond Dickinson fund (targeting £985 for 12 months volunteer costs)	
Andrew contact Stuart Hatton to explore possibility of sponsorship from Wapping Wharf	
Phil to enquire about Yvonne's from Bedminster Station Gardening Group's experience with Metrobank	
Laura to update Bristol Parks Forum with Lizzi as named contact	
Laura to resend login information and Lizzi and Andrew to re-gain access to general enquiries contact inbox.	
Andrew to speak to Guy about covering costs of refreshments for Butterfly Junction project group – and our ambition for consistent approach to reimbursing costs across all FrANC activities.	
Lizzi to speak to Sue and Matthew at upcoming litter pick to see whether they would be interested in joining the committee to provide a direct link with community gardening group/activity.	