



Annual General Meeting – minutes 14 December 2024

Attendance:

- Art Gelling (Chair)
- Paul Luton (Secretary)
- Jo Ward (Treasurer)
- Jane Edmondson
- Deborah Hopkins
- Jill Patterson
- Molly Gartland
- Ben Zass-Bangham
- Mark Sheldrake
- Anne Ferguson
- Sophia Clark
- Peter Woolliams

Apologies: Steve Cordon, Michelle Eden.

1. Banking – To confirm informal discussion on the Hampton Heath WhatsApp Group: Habitats and Heritage have asked HHF to open our own bank account, rather than piggy-backing off their account.

H&H have done some research here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1j8q3Tg4Jn5eJbHaReu03OGVNO5LntDz1/edit>
on low-cost accounts for unregistered Community Groups like us (i.e. not Registered Charity or a not-for-profit-incorporated company).

I've then researched these options (and others!) to see which are also "ethical" and "green". My conclusion is that Metrobank Community Account offers good services (no monthly fee and 200 transactions per month for free)... and it scores far better than others on the <https://bank.green/> website (other than Virgin who only have 10 transactions and then VERY high charges!).

T&Cs and charges etc (though we'd aim to never incur any charges) tabled.

CVP and H&H conditions for funding require two signatories for transactions, which it appears can be authorized via the Metro Banking App or online banking. We can authorise up to 3 signatories (typically Chair, Treasurer and Secretary).

Unanimously agreed

Action AG/DH

2. Officers -

Currently: Chair, Art Gelling; Secretary, Paul Luton; Treasurer, Jo Ward

The treasurer role has been largely “in title only” as the accounts are currently kept by H&H, and project spending has been led by AG. With the change to our own bank account, Jo has asked to step down. The role will involve verifying payments, monitoring the account and reporting the accounts to the AGM. Deborah Hopkins volunteered to take the role and was elected unopposed. Deborah has experience and is already treasurer of another community group. Art and Paul will continue in their roles, and were re-elected unopposed.	
Communications - Website – needs an update and annual review. AG to action Newsletter – AG to continue weekly email via free Mailchimp services Mailchimp login – Molly suggested login details should be shared in case AG was unwell or unable to access. AG agreed, but noted phone verification is needed, so this would still need AG involvement.	Action AG
Conservation Programme – AG outlined the proposed spring / summer programme of conservation works Progress will depend upon numbers, but it was noted that numbers are consistently high – with amazing progress during 2024, while AG has been unable to organize actions “on the ground”. AG thanked everyone for not just keeping the group running, but expanding and accelerating the programme – particularly with regard to bramble and grassland management.	All
Surveys and Wildlife - AG outlined the need to keep INaturalist records coming in, and noted the extraordinary assemblage of grassland waxcap (“CHEGD”) fungi observed. This potentially makes the SINC of Metropolitan Importance. AG outlined the intention to expand surveys to include night-flying invertebrate and bat surveys. PW has UV lights and is writing the Richmond BAP chapter on dark skies. AG noted the intention to engage more with children and young people – possibly through re-engaging with Hampton Scouts (who previously took part in a bio-blitz). JP suggested Woodcraft Folk.	Action AG / PW
AG noted request to maintain log of litter sack numbers, and volunteer numbers (to assist in calculating benefits and “in-kind” costs for funding applications.	All to note in Whatsapp
Projects -	

Signs and seats. CVP funding includes router to incise benches and signs. Signs suggested locations at Burtons Road Gate, Longford Close Gate, and path to David Lloyd and Staines Road. Seats suggested locations, near Longford Close Gate, near tennis court corner, near Winter Pond. Very simple, secured heavy logs with level top.	
Surfacing Burtons Road muddy section: Art to free up funding (admin tasks and check costs with contractor). AG to chase up potential to obtain previous funding (unfortunately lapsed during AG illness).	Action AG
Additional dog waste bin discussed, but ruled out due to DL policy on emptying. Additional general waste bin, probably not needed at this time.	
Tree Preservation Orders Art to chase trees Officer for a site walk to identify veteran and valuable trees across site. Many features (standing and fallen deadwood, stag-heads etc.)	Action AG
Native plant reintroductions – Heather: Art has 30-40 plants ready. Seedlings are collected in winter, and grown on in peat-free compost for 1 year before planting on site. Buckthorn. Several plants from Ian McKinnon. Bee Orchids – 2 flower spikes on 2024 translocated plants and a 2023 plant has reappeared and is flowering. Success indicates translocation should continue in spring 2025. Wildflower seeding – AG to restart programme with seed collection in summer 2025	Action AG
Health and Safety - Art and Anne to complete risk assessment review.	Action AG / AF

Minutes approved:

Art Gelling (Chair)

Paul Luton (Secretary)


