**Minutes of Friends of Bradgers Hill Meeting – Wednesday 13 January 2016**

1. **Present:** Judith Batson, James Hetherington, Margaret Hetherington, David Coupe, Abigail Coupe, Trevor Tween, Kathryn Knights, Scott Ashdown
2. **Apologies:** NirajKhanduja, Judy Entwistle, Lyn Bliss, Bob Tarron, Kelvin Hopkins
3. **Minutes of the last Meeting:** Trevor commented that the proposed date of 1 May is the height of the nesting season, rather than the beginning. Andy Grimshaw (bird expert) is booked.
4. **Constitution Document:**Paul had made the amendments discussed at the last meeting to Section 4 – Fundraising. There were no other comments, therefore the Constitution was agreed and signed by all present.
5. **Actions from Minutes:**

* **Abi to draft a Contact List –** Complete and circulated**;**
* **Paul to add himself to the Voluntary Action Distribution List –** Complete. Potential sources of funding to be explored further include the London Luton Airport Limited Community Awards Fund. We may have a realistic prospect of gaining funding as we are a genuine community focussed organisation and a new contender.

The Lottery Fund is also worth investigating as a potential source of funding for tools, storage, etc. The use of equipment would require personal injury and public liability insurance.

Grow Wild - May also be a possibility for obtaining tools, and seeds for colourful flower beds around Bushmead.

The Friends of Warden Hill have links withThe Conservation Volunteers (TCV) who can potentially offer discounts.

Biffa Award – Funded the work at the River Lea, well worth investigating as their awards tend to be fairly generous. As part of the application you are required to submit a proposed work programme with costings.

Your Say Your Wayfunding is unlikely to be available till at least the new financial year and nothing is confirmed.

* **Charulata to make contact with the Wildlife Trust about opportunities with local educational organisations** – Paul has made good progress on establishing links.
* **Flora Survey** – Trevor has supplied the Natural England Report. Paul will summarise and it will be attached to the Minutes.
* Scott has done an excellent job of completely redesigning the website. Scott suggested changing the current webpage deal, which would allow more flexibility, we will then be able to get the updated site up on the web.

The Facebook page has also been updated,we now have 90 followers.

1. **Calendar of Events for 2016**

A suggestion had been made that we arrange a Clean for the Queen Litter Pick in the first weekend of March 2016. Trevor advised that Phyl Rainey of ‘Signposts’ was aware of this campaign and is hosting a meeting on 20 January, should anyone be available to attend. **Action:***Margaret to investigate what we need to do take part in Clean for the Queen (proposed date Sunday 6 March).* Other litter pick dates were 17 January (cancelled due to snow), 17 July and 20 November.

It was suggested that we also promote people to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch taking place on the weekend of 30 – 31 January 2016.

We could encourage people to post their pictures on the Everything Bushmead Facebook page.

At the next Meeting John Mardle of the Friends of Bramingham Park will speak for 20 minutes sharing his experience.

For March we have Steve Colman booked to host an Ancient Monument Evening covering our landscape history. Suggested that we invite councillors to this.

We have so far had no response from Lionel Shaw of Manor Farm – **Action:**Trevor to try and get in contact with Mr Shaw.

**Old Bedford Road Estates:** Attempts to speak to 3 sets of solicitors re contact with Trustees, but these have been fruitless. Trevor suggested contacting Lionel Shaw or Laura Walton.

**Nature Survey Work**– Dave has been looking in to the possibility of a butterfly survey. Trevor advised that May/June and August are the best times. This can be an ongoing survey on a fixed route, walked once a week from the beginning of April to the end of September, only allowed to miss 1 or 2 weeks.**Action:** Dave to report back at the next meeting.

1. **SSSI Designation**– Trevor has been advised that we are not going to hear anything further for a number of months from Natural England. **Action:** Paul to consider pursuing through our MP.
2. **Access Survey** – James has made excellent work on surveying the access routes on Bradgers Hill and has produced a comprehensive map which can be attached to the website. Trevor suggested viewing the 1842 Tithe Map in Wardown Museum which shows the Old Parish of Luton, divided up in to fields.**Action:** Trevor to investigate if he has any old educational materials which may be relevant.
3. **Litter Pick** – 17 January 2016 – Sadly cancelled due to snow. No replacement date at present.
4. **AOB** – Nothing raised.
5. **Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 10 February, 7 – 8:30pm.