**Friends of Bradgers HillMeeting –10 January 2018**

1. **Present:**

Abi Coupe, Dave Coupe, Alan Mason, Charulata Patel, James Hetherington, Margaret Hetherington, Bob Tarron, Rita Tarron, Lydia Bacon and Trevor Tween.

1. **Apologies:**

None.

1. **Minutes of November 2017**

Agreed.

**Action (from October 2017):** Abi to confirm with Paul that he is happy to remain as Fundraising Officer as he was not present during the Officer elections at the AGM.Paul has advised that he does not have the capacity to take on the role. The Friends agreed to share out any funding applications, as these can be time consuming.

1. **Finance (Alan Mason)**

The only recent expenditure has included room hire and stationery. There is£295 in the account, which is made up of £193 existing group funds and £102 from Your Say Your Way 2017.

**Your Say Your Way**

We were successful in our bid for £980 composed of:

* Equipment - £200
* Resources/speaker support - £190
* Reopening of the nature trails and associated marketing - £550
* TCV Membership - £40

Alan attended the meeting on 18 October to discuss funding distribution. As per last year we are now able to claim 50% of the funds and will then need to submit invoices before we can claim the second half.

For the first invoice we will claim the funds for the reopening of the nature trails. We will work alongside TCV for this project and the first invoice for work undertaken in February will be £240 including VAT. We are aiming to complete the work before the end of March when the bird nesting season begins.

1. **2018 Programme**

Highlights include:

* Monthly meetings. We have the Bedfordshire Rural Crime Team booked to speak at the April Meeting.
* Walks, approximately 5 miles, led by Bob and Rita. Also a number of themed walks such as the bat and bird walks, plus a Christmas Walk hosted by Trevor Tween on 15 December.
* Try to introduce some activities aimed at younger people such as mini beast identification, competitions such as photography, art and or recipes.
* Litter picks - 4 per year. Future dates of 4 February, 15 April, 29 July, and 7 October 2018.
* Butterfly Surveying between May – October.
* Reopening of the lower nature trail and conservation work.
* Summer Wildlife Events –We will spread across the summer including Astronomy on 27 July to coincide with the lunar eclipse, the reptile roadshow and the bat evening (dates tbc).
1. **Rights of Way**

Access Work Parties will take place on the following Saturdays:

* 13 January 2018
* 17 February 2018
* 10 March 2018

All will meet at 9:30am by the roundabout at Bushmead Road/Fairford Avenue. All finish by 12:30pm.

1. **AOB**

Alan raised that annual membership fees are due in April. We will discuss how this is working at the February Meeting.