

ECONET Minutes of meeting 20.05.04 Environment Centre, Prospect Park

Present	Kit Brownlee, chair, RUWG Judith Oliver, FoMP John Lerpiniere, CROW Katrina Pengelly, BTCV	Philip Allen, BeC Andrew Blake, CROW David Kenny,
Apologies	David Booth, RBC Anne Latto, FoCC Tricia Marcouse,	Adrian Lawson, RBC Mike Cox, FoWM Cliff Marriott, CROW

Minutes of previous meeting - accepted. No matters arising.

Tools

The planned work party was postponed. CROW will carry out minor maintenance for the time being. Changes are planned to buildings and their use by RBC so a major overhaul of storage and inventory will happen alongside the new provision. New tools will be purchased and efficient storage planned and a grant will be sought to fund this. Many old tools will be given to Tools for Self Reliance.

Insurance

The new certificate was given to CROW, FoMP and RUWG, Kit will circulate to other groups.

Health and Safety

No issues.

Accounts

These need clarifying. The balance for ECONET is around £400 but a fund of £2,000, mainly from tree sales, is still held by FoCC and will be transferred to ECONET (see Brush Cutter). There was clarification of what are ECONET expenses and what Friends groups should pay for.

Brush Cutter

The value of a purchase has always been in some doubt and it is now clear that there is no need. Funds were set aside after the disappearance of the reciprocal cutter at Waterloo Meadows. This site and View Island, at least, would have benefited but new RBC machinery enables RBC to do the work. If there is a need for groups to use such machinery training courses could be arranged.

RBC Matters

There has been reorganisation of job specifications since Beverley took maternity leave. David Booth has been appointed in a new post, he is to cover Beverley's duties and will from now on be the first point of contact for the groups. Use of the Centre and of RBC facilities, notably the truck, must be booked through David. He will also, in time, meet groups and give support with funding.

RBC, 2-4 Darwin Close, RG2 0TB. 9390725 dave.booth@reading.gov.uk

Other contacts are Alex Derby, Open Spaces Development Officer, and Adrian Lawson, Alex' line manager.

A useful letter from Adrain Lawson clarifying the two-way support of RBC and the groups was received by Kit.

Adrian also reminded us of the mouthpiece of the Woodland and Waterways Forum which should be attended by groups. Next meetings at Civic Centre 6.30pm on 7.9.04, 24.11.04, 15.3.05.

Groups

FoCC - (Clayfield) a woodlands day is being planned for June 2005, volunteers needed.

CROW - (Wednesdays) more tasks have been sought around Reading but with Dave Booth in place useful tasks within the borough should increase.

BTCV - Katrina is soon to take maternity leave, best wishes Katrina. Her job will be covered part time by Andrew Noyes who is very familiar with our work.

RUWG - could do with help at Heron Island, meeting at Southcote Community Centre, on 11.07.04.

RBC - help with tasks too difficult for volunteers can be arranged in the winter months, spring and summer are busy times for them.

Next Meeting - 7.30pm Monday 23rd August at the Environment Centre.