



Uttoxeter Nature Recovery Network

Minutes Of UNRN Meeting held 23 March 2023

Present: Dave Trenergy (Co-Chair), Alison Trenergy, Rob and Janet Hawkins, Carolyn Green, Kate Copeland, Marie Williams (Co-Chair/Meeting Chair), Ken, Justin and Mavis Harrison, Geoff Buck, Philip Knight, Lawrence Oates, Kate Hollins-White; Via Zoom: John Davey

Apologies: Dave Thomas, Anita Thomas-Epple, Maureen Turner, Fred Hopwood

1. **Welcome:** The Chair welcomed all attending

2. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous UNRN Meeting held on 23rd February 2023 were approved.

3. **Uttoxeter in Bloom and links to UNRN (Paper Appendix B)-**

The meeting considered a paper outlining the work undertaken by the Uttoxeter in Bloom committee. While UNRN is primarily an advocacy group, In Bloom seeks to facilitate improvements in the Town Environment. It is therefore a key partner in developing eco-friendly initiatives within the community. Mavis Harrison expressed a wish to become involved in "It's Your Community." The paper was welcomed. Members were asked to forward any ideas they had for gardening initiatives or improvements to open spaces to the Town Council for the attention of the Chair of In Bloom.

4. **Greening the Maltings : Report Back on Progress**

The chair outlined the action taken following the discussion with Tom Deery and Cllr Allen of ESBC at the February Meeting. An additional paper had been prepared by the sub-group advising how ESBC could pursue sustainability and green issues. This paper was welcomed by the group, and it was agreed to post the paper on the UNRN webpage **Action:** Kate Copeland.

Tom Deery wishes to have further discussions with the UNRN in May or June after the Council Elections. **Action:** Sub-group.

5. **Engaging with the Rural Areas**

At the moment the group focuses on Uttoxeter Town which is frustrating for those members who live and work for biodiversity in the surrounding areas. Following discussion it was agreed that there would be a sub-group meeting for the members from rural areas which would be organised by Rob Hawkins and the Co-Chairs. It would identify ways in which the rural areas could be better supported. This would not take place until May because of other commitments. **Action:** RH, DT, MW.

6. **Brief Update: Children and Young People's Initiative:**

The chair gave a brief update on progress. The information from the first survey has been located, and it is considered appropriate to approach the seven schools that responded to that survey for an update on the information provided. The schools had also identified some support needs which might be addressed by UNRN. These needs will need to be considered and responded to as best we





can once the updates are received. The same questionnaire would be used for the schools previously surveyed and for the additional schools to be approached in the wider area, but separate letters have been drafted for each. The survey would commence as soon as possible. **Action:** Sub-Group

7. Brief Update: Green Mapping Project:

Alison Trenery provided an update. The green routes identified by the Neighbourhood Plan have been drawn on a more detailed map, which shows that the Town Centre and Town Meadows Way are particular barriers to wild life. The Sub-Group will look at Green routes which terminate close to each other to consider how they might be linked to become through routes. It was noted that aerial views (e.g. Google Earth) could reveal tree cover over unpromising terrain which could provide arboreal routes for wildlife. Kate Copeland noted that TTTV had a mapping tool which may be useful. A meeting has been arranged with the Admin Assistant at the Town Council to take forward the use of the Parish online Mapping system. **Action:** Sub-Group.

8. Leads for species Action Plans: Hedgehogs, Swifts, and Bees.

Anita Epple-Thomas has taken responsibility for Hedgehogs. It was agreed that the group would ask Maureen Turner if she would take a lead on Swifts with support from Geoff Buck. Lawrence Oates suggested that a contact he had could talk to the group about bees and this will be pursued: **Action:** Co-Chairs.

9. Outline Financial Plan for 2023-24 .

Marie Williams presented a draft UNRN Cash Flow Statement which will form the basis for our financial planning . It was noted that the primary role of the group is advocacy and therefore we do not need large sums of money to do that job as it is primarily about communication. However, four areas of potential expenditure have been identified:

- i. Supporting Uttoxeter in Bloom Photographic competition with a Biodiversity prize for one of the competition categories.
- ii. Stall rental / promotion materials
- iii. Cost of printing and purchase of seeds/distribution costs
- iv. Responding to requests for help with biodiversity issues identified through the school survey.

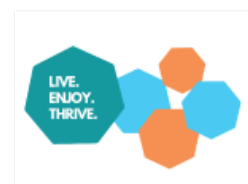
Kate Copeland noted that the cost of room use refreshments etc to The Globe for hosting UNRN meetings is £384 PA.

The Cash Flow statement was welcomed as a basis for financial planning and would be developed further. **Action:** MW.

10. Biodiversity Conference and Climate Carnival – Big Green Week 10-18 June

Climate Carnival will take place on 11 June. Volunteers will be needed to help on the day. Kate Hollins-White offered her help.

It would be helpful to have a leaflet which explains the work UNRN to use at this and other events. MW agreed to look into this. **Action:** MW





11. Newspaper Article Rota

UNRN provides an article each month for publication in the Uttoxeter Echo, with the final submission date being the last Friday in the Month via the Globe. Target length is 400 words plus one or two photographs for illustration. The following schedule was agreed.

Month	Topic	Responsibility	Submission Date
March	Green Corridors	A. Trenergy	31/3/23
April	Green Streets	L. Oates	28/4/23
May	Big Green Week	K. Copeland	26/5/23
June	More on Bees	K. White	30/6/23

Additional ideas for articles were (a) Soil (KC to ask Ruth), (b) Bats CG to pursue with her contact. (c) Harvest time LO offered to do an article on Fruits of the Earth for September) (d). Philip Knight offered to do an article on trees. **Action:** all listed

12. Defend Nature Campaign – Action Taken by Members

Members were encouraged to send a postcard to their MP in support of the Wildlife Trusts Defend Nature campaign. These can be obtained at <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/defend-nature-postcard-campaign> **Action:** all

13. Events and Activities - Brief Updates

(a) Hedgehog awareness – 25 March 2023

(b). The Wildlife Trusts are doing a City Nature Challenge in April. Kate will provide additional information. **Action:** KC

(c). Friday Forums at Globe – second Friday in each month starting May at 7pm. Globe will invite relevant speakers and would welcome suggestions for speakers.

(d). Burton Conservation Volunteers will be undertaking a Balsam pull with Friend of Bramshall Park. Date to be arranged.

14. Matters Arising: None.

15. AOB and Next Meeting Date

i. Any other business:

(a) Litter picking to be discussed when Dave Thomas is present.

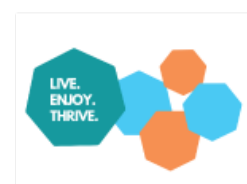
(b). Quarry presentation to take place later in the year. Date to be agreed.

(c). No Mow May – to be included in Green Streets Press story. **Action:** LO

(d). National Forest Walking Festival to take place 13-25 May.

ii. Next meeting date and time: 27 April 2023 7pm

iii. December 14 Meeting: This will involve a brief review of progress, mince pies and refreshments.





Marie Williams/Dave Trenery Co-Chairs

