

FoHC General Meeting - 14th March 2026

(Previous meeting: 10th January 2026)

In attendance: Lucy, Val, Claire, Liz, John, David, Dylan and Laurence

1. Minutes of last meeting

- All fine as of 14th March. One error about Val contacting Joe about lower pond (should be Lucy) was corrected before.

2. FoHC Business

a. AGM - updates from AGM team

- AGM team met and the general structure is planned; formal parts of the meeting to last around 45 minutes (including election of Treasurer/accounts/a notice that the Constitution and policies are available to read online/notice of our regular meetings/activities and achievements of the year), then “informal” section, including quiz. Garden Room is booked.
- Suggestion of 2:30pm start, so time to set up the room and get settled. The “audience” for the AGM is seen as those with interest in FoHC – so this includes Friends who regularly take part, along with those on our newsletter. Advertising will therefore be lowkey – e.g. noticeboard, website, newsletter.
- No contact from John Budd, so will use Ellie’s quiz for the fun section – thanks Ellie!
- **Action:** AGM team will meet again soon to finalise last bits of planning.
- Needs that were mentioned: financial reports (as of 24.03.26, Sarah has kindly sent those through – thank you, Sarah!), laptop and projector (as of 24.03.26, Ellie will provide laptop, Lucy projector), QR code for Constitution/Policy (Lucy to provide), powerpoint of photos/videos that can be used long term (Liz to create), quiz (Ellie finishing off), urn with tea and coffee (Claire to source and Lucy to check on urn), poster (Lucy to create)

b. Health and Safety

- *Risk assessments (batch) – Laurence to update*
 - We received signed assessments back for 11 general activities – thanks Laurence! We just need to change the date and resubmit these each year. (No action needed now)

3. Finance / Grants

a. CIL Funding for bat boxes - Val to update

- Val met with Joe and Rosie to scout the trees for the bat boxes and these have now been confirmed and photos of the trees sent through – thanks Val!

- The money is now with the Ardagh, where Rosie will invoice Chrissie after Joe has completed the work. 15 bat boxes will be ordered.
 - Our AGM qualifies us (after April) to receive money directly for future funding – hooray!
 - Blog post will be done about the project when the bat boxes are up and settled.
 - **Actions:** Val to keep us updated, FoHC marketing team to do blog post at proper time.
- b. National Lottery Awards for all – John to update
- John kindly sent off an application, but nothing to report yet. (No action needed)
- c. Bank/savings account/Treasurer role – Lucy to update
- Bank account/savings account: Lucy completed payments to David for the shed and to herself for renewing the Weebly subscription/domain for 2 years. We currently have around £800 in usable money.
 - Question of the lump sum of website money, donated by Sarah, given 10 years is a long time. As it's been specifically donated towards the website, we can reassess its use if we find we don't need the website any longer in future.
 - Treasurer: Ellie kindly added the Treasurer position to volunteering sites and the group agreed that we would like someone to attend a few meetings first/be very attached to the Common and the FoHC's aims. John has very kindly volunteered to be the Treasurer – thanks so much, John! **Action:** John to be formally elected Treasurer at the AGM, Lucy to help John get set up.
 - Update as of 24.03.26 – we've received another interested person from Ellie's advert, so have let them know that John has come forward for Treasurer and asked them to come join a few events and meet the group.
- d. Donation link/QR code – Lucy to update
- Lucy checked with Sally at the Ardagh and with Liz's husband Jon, whose forte is cyber-security, so we're very grateful to have been able to ask this advice!
 - This was that we should link to the QR code to a paypal address and make sure that the QR is not altered i.e. it should only be on materials that we have direct access to (such as at the info table and within the noticeboard)
 - Group agreed to go ahead and if it could be done before the 11th April market, that would be ideal.
 - **Action:** Lucy to create paypal with FoHC bank account/email and then QR code

- e. *Bristol Water / Councillor James Crawford – no longer pursued for now*
- f. (Added in meeting) Liz found the following funding, which was easy to apply for: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/impact-fund/?utm_medium=paid-social&utm_source=meta&utm_campaign=paid-social-impactfund&utm_content=impactfund-1&fbclid=IwY2xjawQf2bZleHRuA2F1bQMxMDAAYnJpZBEyVXV1UEdwNWtQQWdYeW13N3NydGMGYXBwX2lkEDlyMjAzOTE3ODgyMDA4OTIAAR74cW5Gn2jGEQE_9EbFd66unEgAurWHhuv8t-ioyn381JPwukpFlcZg5L4uhg_aem_a-FCO63LbJBAoT7JnXCctQ
 - Liz has kindly submitted an application – thanks Liz! It could be used for subsidising walks for residents of lower income areas, or printing more leaflets.

4. Current projects/subgroups (active)

- a. *New Quab Pond – updates*
 - Despite the rain, keeps going down! Advice that it does need to be dug deeper to reach the water line.
 - Previous advice from Council was to monitor it for now to see how it reacts to the changes in season, but if constantly decreasing, we should have enough evidence to push for digging deeper over the summer. (No action needed right now)
 - Dylan reported seeing pond skaters, water boaters and frogs, along with seedlings and plants taking root. Great news!
 - Unfortunately, also lots of people throwing things in the pond.
 - **Actions:** Dylan to write a blog post about what's growing in the pond (to try to dissuade throwers!), marketing team to make very clear sign of "do not throw things in – report to FoHC if something is in there" and accompanying facebook post
- b. *Lower Common Pond*
 - *Bridge removal / vegetation clearance – Lucy to update*
 - No news from Council as of yet.
 - Dylan reported seeing toads and 8 clumps of spawn. More great news!
- c. *Scots Pine Area – updates and someone new to oversee?*
 - Val and Dylan overseeing for the meantime.
 - Val very kindly did the periwinkle removal, but it was hard work! Thank you Val! Suggestion to check for the periwinkle once a year.
 - **Action:** Dylan to look at the leeks and remove.
- d. *Mosaic/regeneration group – Liz/Val/Dylan to update*

- *Awaiting map updates from Rosie*
 - No news from Council as of yet.
- e. *Horfield Leisure Centre – Claire to follow up potential links*
 - Claire hasn't had time so Lucy will pick this up (**action** for Lucy)
- f. *Shed – updates from Shed team*
 - The shed team did an amazing job and the shed is now complete and standing beautifully – thank you all!
 - Things needed: fence treatment (keep eyes peeled on freecycle etc, or we can buy if needed), combination pad lock (Laurence sourced, as of 24.03.26), plastic boxes (as of 24.03.26, Liz has sourced), and a metal shelving unit (again freecycle etc)
- g. *Nature walks – updates (Bat Walk / posters)*
 - A wonderful series of events and a beautiful poster from Liz – thank you for all your hard work, Liz!
 - Bat walk Eventbrite is ready and will be launched week of 16th. (As of 24.03.26, all tickets are sold out!)
 - Questions regarding ticket price: making higher for contingency fund in case we don't cover the cost? Children's price/half-price? In the end, decided to increase ticket price to £10 across the board for ease. We'll then wait to see if we get any feedback and can reassess from there
 - Liz is free to be Lead Volunteer for the events, but is happy for other people to also lead (and it can take the pressure off Liz!) Val is maybe free for the bat walk. (**Possible action:** if you're trained and would like to Lead one of the events, please get in touch with Liz)
 - **Action:** Lucy to launch bat walk eventbrite and advertise. Lucy to finalise eventbrites for all events (they can be finished and the tickets kept hidden from sale until ready to launch)
- h. *Ardagh Monthly Market April 11th – any notes/organisation*
 - Claire, John, Val and Lucy are helping out with this one. (Liz could maybe fit it in before holiday, but we said to just go enjoy your trip!)
 - No cover this time, so if bad weather, we'll have to call off.
 - **Action:** Claire to create schedule of shifts (2 hours each)
- i. *Muller Road triangle – awaiting sign off from Rosie – then Laurence to update*
 - No updates as we'll need to address this with the mosaic map plans, which we're still waiting on updates

for. (For next agenda, this will be folded into the mosaic group section)

- j. Festival of Nature – Liz is kindly organising this and can confirm that we're now booked in! 11th June 2026 and Steve England will be running another brilliant talk for us. FoN will do the advertising.

5. Potential projects (not yet active)

- a. *Planting area/endangered native trees*
- b. *Further transplanting existing seedlings/whips in no-mow areas already agreed with the council.*
- c. *Dead hedging – awaiting update from Rosie/Aimee*
- d. *Checking regularly on specific newly planted trees*
- e. *Audit/Replacement of Dead Trees (using local whips)*
- f. *Information boards for the Common*
 - Idea for future as we need funding
- g. *Ditch clearance (Autumn/Winter)*
- h. *Bunds (increasing the size of them on Castle Field during New Quab dig)*
- i. *Special “weeks” (e.g. tree week) events calendar*
 - General chat that it's difficult to do any of the more active plans currently without permission from the Council/updates on the mosaic map. There's nothing the FoHC can do to speed this along right now – suggestion of talking with other groups who have had recent successes to get an idea of their timescales. (As of 24.03.26, Liz has spoken to Eric Swithinbank about Lockleaze and they also faced long time-scales of 6 months plus, so this is just a feature rather than a bug!)
 - Discussion on saplings: moving in winter is best, but if they're in the mow areas and going to be destroyed, they'll be better being moved anyway! If you see any, please let Dylan know – however the group weren't sure about correctly identifying the saplings, so idea of walk around the Common together to check in on how everything's doing!
 - **Action:** Saturday 28th March – litter pick will finish at 11:30am, 30 minutes for a coffee, then 12pm we'll meet with Dylan and have a walk round the Common.

6. Communications

- a. *Social media/ website/ Bishopston Matters– updates from Liz*

- All updated, but any new comments/posts welcomed!
- b. *Twelve Trees Trail leaflets – any more needed ordering?*
 - Interest in ordering more for the summer months/Festival of Nature when people will be out more. Need to secure funds for this though: Tesco (Val wrote to them again, but no news unfortunately), QR code for donations (WIP) and Lucy to contact Horfield Leisure Centre (see 4e)
- c. *Cleaning noticeboard*
 - Suggestion of white spirit/washing up liquid. Action: Liz to clean inside, John outside (completed as of 24.03.26 thanks both!)
- d. *Crafty Cow Easter Fair – invite to table*
 - At capacity, so will decline invite
- e. *RSPB Spotlight on Local Groups / Managing for Nature newsletter – on hold/completed*
- f. Noticeboards: discussion on current/potential ones. These are: FoHC noticeboard outside Ardagh (direct access), Kellaway Ave. play area noticeboard (Sally currently has key – noticeboard needs some upkeep (action for future)), Manor Farm noticeboard (on hold, as access to keys isn't possible right now), Gloucester Road noticeboard outside Blue Lagoon (will need to check with Council about access)

7. AoB

- FoHC website: suggestion of a private page (password protected) for shared resources (risk assessments etc.)
Action: Lucy to look into (as of 24.03.26, Liz has been making some tests into this – thanks, Liz!)
- Making things accessible for residents in lower income areas: important discussion needed, but at later date, as no time this meeting.
- Collections box and keys: this is still with Sarah. It would be useful to have back before the market, but if it's not possible due to her health then it's no issue.
Action: Laurence to check with Mary as to if someone can pop round. Claire happy to be the one to go collect if so.
- Litter pick grabbers/hoops: the current ones are running out, as they can't be fixed once broken. Lucy has contacted Bristol Waste for some new ones (specifically the pistol grip rather than the clench ones) but we may have to purchase if no luck.

8. Date of next meeting

- *Next meeting is 2nd May, 10am-12pm, meeting after will be AGM on the 16th May, 2-4pm. Mid June for next meeting?*
 - **Action:** Lucy to do usual doodle poll etc.
- *Volunteer training: no set dates upcoming*