**THE FRIENDS OF THE TRAP GROUNDS**

**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 13 March 2023**

1. **Introduction:** Alan Allport, in the Chair, welcomed approximately 65 people to the sixteenth Annual General Meeting (including approximately 10 guests from the Friends of Burgess Field). Nine apologies for absence were noted. The meeting was declared quorate.
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 18 March 2022** were approved unanimously, with no matters arising.

1. **Progress Report for 2022**

**a. Conservation work.** Professional contractors dredged the stream and sections of the Frog Lane ditch; felled unsafe trees and willows overhanging the stream; and excavated rubble from Cuckoo Copse. Students from St Clare’s Sixth-Form College did a wide variety of monthly maintenance tasks. Our own volunteers’ work includedclearing duckweed from two ponds and watering c. 100 saplings throughout the drought. Oxford Direct Services strimmed the meadows in the autumn. Oxford Conservation Volunteersplanted 65 trees in Cuckoo Copse and scythed 400 sq m of reeds.

**b. Public education.** Events included the traditional May Morning Birdsong Walk, a Spring Watch afternoon of pond-dipping and green crafts for children, a Smelly Walk for children, an all-day bioblitz by Oxford University students, a guided wildflower walk, and a stall at the Canal Festival. Thanks were expressed to Anthony Grieveson for managing our website; to Miranda Robinson for managing the Facebook page; and to Suzanne and Donald Dalton for their on-going reptile survey.

1. **Plans for 2023.** As usual, the meadows will be mowed in spring and autumn; another block of reeds will be scythed in September; more wildflowers will be sown, and saplings will be planted in the woodland to thicken up the under-storey. The never-ending war on brambles will continue.
2. **The Nicola Devine Memorial Fund**. In memory of our dear friend and official photographer, who died in September 2022, a total of £2,827 has been raised to date. A bench with a plaque, costing £535, has been installed on the bank of the Dragonfly Pond, and a Bird Cherry tree, costing £130, has been planted next to it. The remaining money will be devoted to establishing an annual amateur photography competition featuring wildlife of the Trap Grounds, with prizes for photographers in two categories: under-18s and adults.
3. **Financial Report:** Total income in 2022 was £10,004, generated by supporters’ donations (£6,146), sales of the 2023 calendar (£1,771, with thanks to Tom Bulford for the production), and a grant of £200 from City Councillor Katherine Miles in part payment for two bike stands. Total expenditure was £11,129. The bank balance at 31/12/22 was £7,578. The statement of accounts (appended to these minutes) was approved unanimously, and a proposal to open a fully electronic bank account (and to amend the Constitution accordingly) was approved with just one dissenting vote.
4. **Next Year's Committee:** Offers by Alan Allport, Tom Bulford, Sam Crofts, Donald Dalton, Howard Davies, Lance Millar, Colm O'Caomhanaigh, and Catherine Robinson to continue serving were unanimously endorsed.
5. **Powerpoint presentation.** University ornithologist Dr Oliver Padget gave an illustrated talk about his bird-ringing and migration research conducted on nearby Burgess Field over the past four years.

The meeting ended with thanks to the hosts, Ian Haslam and Colm O'Caomhanaigh.

 *Catherine Robinson (Hon. Secretary, The Friends Of The Trap Grounds)*