



Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of Annual General Meeting and quarterly 'meeting' on Monday 14 July 2025

7:30-9:00, Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Rd, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3HJ. In 'The Lounge', accessed via the car park

Item: Attendance	Actions
<p>Present: Hugh Bryson, Rose Reeve, Barney Lerner, Kevin Sunderland, Robert Hellawell, Dalvinder Hellawell, Sarah Dixon, Elizabeth McDonald, David Brazendale, Irene Lofthouse, Tamsin Treasure-Jones, Graham Glover, David Powell, Andrew Peck, Pauline Ford, Patsy Hayes, Richelle Berdeni, Mac Price, Joy Crampton</p>	
<p>Apologies: Mike Pitts, Eddie Lawler, Frances Cleaver, Caroline Perry, Lou Yates</p>	
<p>1. Election of Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Chair (currently Barney Lerner) <p>Barney will be standing down as Chair at the end of the year.</p> <p>No nominations have been received for Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Deputy Chair (currently Robert Hellawell) <p>Robert expressed he does not wish to be Chair but would be prepared to continue as deputy if a new Chair can be found.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Secretary (currently Dalvinder Hellawell) <p>Secretary position – also needs to be considered as Dalvinder can only carry on a temporary basis until the end of the year.</p> <p>No nominations or interest expressed from those who attended the meeting for Secretary position</p> <p>Elections of Officers will need to be reviewed after October meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Finances</p> <p>a. The current balance of our funds held at ART is £7076. We have paid for all the expenses associated with the new walks booklets, we have put £1000 aside as a contribution to the Festival, there are a few small expenses to come, but don't have any other major liabilities. Therefore, there is about £6000 available.</p> <p>b. The current balance of our account at Lloyds is £2948.12</p>	

<p>3. Review of the last year – Chair's report</p> <p>a. Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover the Becks (see below) • Festival of the Becks (see below) • Talks to: Wilsden WI, Baildon WI, Saltaire History Society, Airedale National Trust, Shipley Library Slide Show Group, Thornton Antiquarian Society • Stalls at: Bradford Cathedral's Heritage Open Day on 15th Sept; Shipley • Eco Fair 19th October 2024; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust event at Cliffe • Castle on 9th March; Nature's Hope in Lister Park 24th May 2025; Bug Ball at Bowling Park • Plaques: we replaced the damaged plaque 4 and made sure that all the plaques disturbed by the pedestrianisation went back the right way round • Irene did a piece for BBC Leeds about the Beck <p>b. Discover the Becks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose Reeve and Pat Ross have done an amazing job in developing our new booklets of walks, (with some help from others). Lots of very complimentary comments have been made. • 5000 copies of the booklet printed, about 3500 have been distributed so far. Can you distribute any? • Our programme of 26 guided walks is well underway, ably supported by walk leaders Richelle, Mac, Patsy, Mike & Donna, Frances, Caroline, Chris, Lou, Tamsin, Sally, Sue & Malcolm, Geoff S-C, Richard and Wendy. <p>Trained by Rose and Baildon Walkers are Welcome. Feedback has all been good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks are free and booked via Eventbrite, except for 2 linked to Bradford Literature Festival and two for the Street Choir Festival. <p>There are always no-shows, up to 40%, which is frustrating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining walks are: <p>26th July City Centre plaques trail</p> <p>30th July Northcliff Dike and Red Beck</p> <p>9th August Gill Beck and Spring Woods, Baildon</p> <p>13th August Chellow Dene Beck and reservoirs</p> <p>23rd August Pitty Beck and Clayton</p> <p>27th August Hewenden Vistas</p> <p>6th Sept Pinch Beck, High Barks Becks and Hole Bottom Beck</p>	<p>Walk booklets taken by FoBB members for distribution</p> <p>Barney will continue to publicise walks</p>
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<p>10th Sept North Beck, Keighley 20th Sept Morton Beck and Sunnydale reservoir 24th Sept City Centre plaques trail</p> <p>Thank you to Rose Reeve for all her hard work – gift from Chair as recognition for her all efforts</p> <p>a. Festival of the Becks, 21st June 2025</p> <p>Thank you for those helped with the Beck Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene Lofthouse has been a star, winning a grant to put this on, doing most of the organising, and then telling stories as part of the event itself. • Lots of people helped over the weekend: Rob, Dal, Steve, Hugh, Andrew, Graham, Elisabeth, Pauline, Richelle, Sara, Razwan and family, Richard, Geoff R, Sue, John, Ross and Matt from the Council, and a couple of local lads. • There was: story-telling (Irene), calligraphy (Razwan), poetry (Nabeela), sketching (Naseem), family activity (Sandy), bugs (EA), salmon and damselflies (ART), FoBB, music (Bingley Ukulele Band) and birds (Owl Adventures). • Special acknowledgment and thanks to Irene was given and she received FoBB “Best Friends Forever” certificate for all her hard work and a gift from the Chair. • Volunteers can claim £15 for their involvement or donate to FoBB 	<p>Volunteers to complete forms and send to Barney/Hugh</p>
<p>4. Organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We set up a bank account, took out Public Liability Volunteer insurance, and agreed a set of policies 	
<p>5. Habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The official opening of the revamped Chellow Dene wetlands took place on Wed 18th Sept. • Design of a revamp of Pitty Beck wetlands is underway by ART. There has been a lot of arson in the area recently, and Mike attended a meeting with the Fire Brigade and others to discuss a plan – the info has been passed on to ART. • The possibility of a wetland and fish pass at the Sams Mill weir has become a possibility. The landowner, who wants planning permission for an industrial development, has agreed that the site can be used and will make a financial contribution. The project now goes over to ART to see if 	

<p>they can achieve it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fagley Beck will be one of the focus points of the ART Roots in the River. This is a Lottery funded project over the next few years, using the Barratt Homes money handed over as an Enforcement Undertaking. 	
<p>6. Any other business and news</p> <p>a. Eddie Lawler & Steve Scott Bottoms are reprising their "The Ballad of Little Beck", at Saltaire Festival on 14th Sept. It takes people up to Milner Field and down to the Rowing Club, with info including the River of course, Little Beck and Loadpit Beck, the empty lake at Milner Field, Fred Hoyle's house,</p> <p>They have asked if FoBB could contribute to travel and accommodation</p> <p>Proposed by Elizabeth and seconded by Rose, £100 each</p> <p>All in agreement with this request</p> <p>b. Kevin informed the group of YWS sewage detention tanks completed in Gilstead and Cottingley. Explanation of the purpose of these tanks was provided. It is one of these tanks that had failed at George St and was not monitored which led to YW being fined £1.6m in 2022.</p>	All
<p>7. Succession planning</p> <p>For FoBB to move forward do we need to consider an open meeting? Do we approach groups or those that may be interested in taking the position?</p> <p>What has been the success of FoBB: Raising awareness of the pollution and Pollution hunting, reporting and monitoring, physical improvements of the becks, litter picks, balsam bashing, supporting other Friends group for their local rivers/becks, the guidebooks as well as Wetlands and feasibility studies but to name a few.</p> <p>It was agreed that a meeting will be held in October and consider a facilitator to support this meeting and to look at a plan for the future of FoBB. Consider a five year plan?</p> <p>a. Arrange a meeting to discuss future of FoBB – to be organised by Barney, Irene, Rob and Dal.</p> <p>To liaise with interest parties and FoBB members</p> <p>Proposed date: Monday 13 October 2025</p> <p>12.30pm Lunch</p> <p>1.30pm Meeting</p> <p>? Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>b. Facilitator required for this meeting (After the meeting,</p>	

Geoff Roberts agreed to be the facilitator) c. Consider article in T&A	
8. Minutes of AGM 2024 and last Quarterly meeting – circulated and on website	
9. Next meetings and events a. Quarterly catch ups: October meeting to rescheduled – new date to be found after the meeting re future of FoBB b. Guided walks as above c. BD Festival 26/27 July 2025 – City of Culture City park event – little notice to organise a FoBB stall so agreed to take up a place d. Saltaire Festival 17 September 2025 – Poetry competition- to take walk booklets to the festival e. Rose raised the matter of reprinting of the walk booklets. Agreed that funds would be reserved for this, whatever the future of FOBB is.	Barney/Irene/Rob/Dal Irene FoBB chair
10. A special poem was written by Elisabeth Macdonald for Barney as a “Thank you” and we had a celebratory drink and samosa for Barney’s last FoBB AGM	
11. Thank you to Joy Crampton as secretary for all her hard work and continues as admin for FoBB FB page	