Friends of Bradford's Becks

Minutes of Annual General Meeting and quarterly meeting on Monday 13th July 2026

19:30-21:00, Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Rd, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3HJ. In 'The Lounge', accessed via the car park

Date:	Monday 13th July
Chair person:	Anna Williams Robert Hellawell (Deputy Chair)
Location:	Saltaire Methodist Church
Attendees:	Robert Hellawell, Anna Williams, Irene Lofthouse, Dalvinder Hellawell, Sue Patchett, Sara Dixon, Geoff Hale, Rose Reeve, Sally Tetlow, Emmerson Walgrove, Jim Hirst, Patsy Hayes, Mac Price, Graham Glover
Apologies for absence:	Barney Lerner, Caroline Perry, Mike Pitts, Hugh Bryson, Andrew Pick

Item:	**Actions**
1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting, matters arising. *April meeting minutes were circulated on 29th April and are on the website.* *All present were happy to approve previous minutes, no matters arising*	

2. Chair's report
Walks:
- 12 walks run by FoBB between July-September 2025
- Anna organised 2026 walk program which has been a great success with walks almost fully booked on Eventbrite
- As part of ART Roots in the River Project, Anna has run over 20 walks in and around Bradford with various community groups and community centres
- Upcoming walks:
  o Saturday 8th August 10am – 12:30pm. Chellow Dean walk. Mike Pitts leading.
  o Thursday 20th August 10am – 1pm. Pitty Beck and Clayton. Mike Pitts leading, Anna helping.
  o Thursday 27th August 10am – 12:30pm. Pinch Beck. Mac/Patsy leading, Anna helping
 	
ART work / Roots in the River Project:
Successful clean up season by ART:
- Pitty Beck x1	

- Fagley beck x4 - Shipley Greenway x2 - Haigh Beck (FoBB event) x1 Over 16 balsam bashing days at sites across the catchment including Pitty Beck, Fagley Beck, Chellow Dene Riverfly monitoring: Sam has run lots of Riverfly events across the catchment. 3 events across Bradford – Pitty Beck / Chellow Dene / Calverley Woods Events and meetings: - Rob represented FoBB at National Nature Reserve meeting with Bradford Council, he was the deputy for Barney. Meeting discussed writing the mission statement for NNR. - Pitty Beck wetlands project by ART almost complete. Find out more here: https://aireriverstrust.org.uk/better-becks/pitty-beck-wetlands/ - Mucky Beck exhibition in November 2025, part of BD25 - Flow of the Broad Ford art installation, part of BD is lit - Tales of the mucky beck – music and poetry about BD beck in September 2025, part of Saltaire Festival - 5th November 2026 – invitation to Sustainability Day at Bradford City Football ground FoBB meetings: - October 2025 – FoBB future meeting, chaired by Geoff Roberts, 29 attended - January quarterly meeting – Barney stood down as chair, Anna stepped in as Interim chair until July AGM - FoBB chair sub-group met in February to discuss plan for recruiting a new chair. - Between February and July – efforts made to recruit a new chair, including posters on social media, websites, leaflets in community spaces, press release sent out… Word given from Rob on Joy Crampton's passing. She was a valued member of the FoBB volunteer team, as a dedicated secretary and Riverfly monitor, and also focused on invasive species management. Some FoBB members attended the funeral.	- Decision needed on whether to attend and have a stall at the sustainability day on 5th November 2026
3. Finance report £6420 of FoBB money held with Aire Rivers Trust £4760 held in FoBB bank account (subject to £8.50 service charges monthly / £102 per year) Discussion around closing the account and how this would mean the group can not apply for lottery grants etc. Vote on whether to close FoBB bank account and move to ART – 7 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions.	- Decision needed on what to do with remaining FoBB money in ART account and FoBB account
4. Pollution updates (RH) Blue-green algae reported in both Chellow Dean reservoirs. EA investigating. Fagley Beck - sediment pollution from construction site. EA investigating.	

Pitty Beck - extensive fly tipping and burnt out, stolen vehicles upstream of wetlands. Opportunity for locals to engage with new councillors to encourage stopping access which had previously been promised by council. Reports of sewage pollution to Pitty Beck again from Boggart Wood surface water drain. Reported to EA and Yorkshire Water. Bradford Beck, Shipley turned white from industrial pollution. EA investigated and found the contaminant to be TiO2, a white pigment used in paints and cosmetics. EA investigations into source ongoing. Finally, some good news! Yorkshire Water contractors have been reported cleaning out the sewage detention tanks which were the cause of the chronic pollution from beneath the city centre that led to their prosecution in 2022. Mike Pitts reported that the same contractors had also done maintenance work on the detention tank on Clayton Beck close to the confluence with Pitty Beck.	
5. Election of officers We had received a number of expressions of interest in the chair role, the majority of which came to nothing. - Emmerson Walgrove had expressed interest in the role on 1st July and attended the meeting to put his case forward to become the new chair. - After presenting to the group, there is an opportunity for the group to ask Mr Walgrove some questions about his experience and interest in the group/role. - Mr Walgrove is then asked to step outside to give the group an opportunity to discuss and vote. - The group vote against Mr Walgrove becoming the new chair of FoBB, he is informed of this decision and leaves the meeting. Robert Hellawell gives his thoughts on the future of the group and puts forward the option of discontinuing the group due to lack of interest in someone taking on the chair role. Geoff Hale steps in and tells the group that he is willing to step into the role to prevent FoBB from folding, explaining that he admires the group for all the hard work that they have put in. With a formal offer from Geoff Hale to become the new chair, the group have an opportunity to ask him questions, before he is asked to step out of the room to allow the group to discuss and vote. The group vote unanimously to elect Geoff Hale as the new chair of FoBB, on an interim basis until the next AGM in July 2027. Officers elected after group vote: a) Chair (Geoff Hale, interim chair until 2027 AGM) b) Deputy Chair (Robert Hellawell) c) Secretary (Sara Dixon) d) Treasurer (Hugh Bryson) The group agreed that Geoff should not be responsible for every aspect of FoBB (social media, website…) and that the group should support Geoff with individual volunteers taking responsibility for specific aspects of the group.	- Geoff to get in touch with FoBB members to discuss how they might like to be involved moving forward. - Anna to support Geoff in the transition period to becoming chair. - Elected officers and Anna to meet to discuss how we move forward. - Anna to invite Chris Barker from CABAD to said meeting to help FoBB clarify its constitution and legal status / responsibilities.
6. Any other business Rose Reeve suggests a re-print of the FoBB walk booklet, 2000 copies. The	- Rose to arrange an order of

group agree with this plan. Sara offers to store the boxes at her house.	2000 copies of the walk booklet

Date of next meeting: Monday 12th October 2026