Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: **The Burgess Hill Green Circle Network Group**
Date & Time: **24th June 2015 starting at 18:00**
Venue: **Walk-about Bedelands Farm starting from Football Club car park.**

Present:

Alison Price	MSDC
Dominic Moore	FOBHGCN
Mary Smith	FOBHGCN
Janice Henwood	FOBHGCN
Margaret Pilkington	University of Sussex
Sue Coote	FOBHGCN and Mid Sussex Bridleways Group

Apologies:

Michael Nailard	The Greenfield Guardians
Leslie Campbell	Hassocks Parish Council
Maria Fielding	Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council

Start:18:00pm		**Action**
1	**Split Oak Tree** The group viewed the Oak tree at Coopers Close which split apart a few days before the walk-about. MSDC arboricultural contractors have made it safe.	
2	**Big Field** The flora in Big Field is slowly improving year on year. DM said that there are bluebells and wood anemone on the boundary. He also noted that there are fewer Oxeye Daisy than previous years	
3	**Furze Common Field** **Glow-worm research** Two graduates from the University of Sussex will be carrying out Glow-worm research at Bedelands soon. DM said he has advised them that he has seen glow-worms in the southern and eastern boundaries of Furze Common Field. **Gorse bushes** The friends group have planted Gorse along the boundary with the railway to deter access.	

	Stone Wall DM said the stone wall is being used by reptiles. The area has been left alone for the last year to avoid disturbing them. The bracken will be cut this year.	**FOBHGCN**
4	**Dipping Pond** The Friends Group have installed dry hedging around the pond to deter dogs from entering the pond. This has proved very effective. DM reported that all three types of native newts have now been found in the pond.	
5.	**Mill Pond Field** Large holes have been worn both sides of the stiles and there is a large worn area on the footpath along the northern boundary of the meadow.	**AP**
6	**Valebridge Common** The new Coronation Meadow sign was admired. Woody species have self-sown around the fence line. The Friends Group will dig out the Oak and Ash There was discussion about the wet area by the board walk. Dogs run through the mud and transfer it to the board walk making the surface slippery. Suggestions to deter dogs from running through this area were the installation of a dry fence like the one around the dipping pond, or the creation of a willow fence.	**FOBHGCN** **FOBHGCN**
7	**Old Arable** MP said this field was the one that would benefit the most from grazing. The fence has been pushed down on the northern boundary and a desire line worn across the meadow. AP suggested that, if budgets allow, the fence be moved to leave an access route across the northern boundary. It was also noted that if grazing were to take place here the stile on the south western corner would need to be closed off.	**AP**
8	**Wet Meadow** DM and MP expressed concern about locating Black Poplars in the wet meadow. AP to ask DJ to take a look. It was noted that the path across the meadow is hardly used which is good. The friends Group will cut back encroaching bracken. Boardwalk – one of the slats is rotten.	**AP** **FOBHGCN** **AP**

9	**Watford Wood** DM reported that woodland floor flora had benefitted from the removal of invasive species.	
10.	**Watford Meadow** DM reported that this is the least used meadow. A good number of Orchids were in bloom	
Walk-about ended: 20:00		

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the annual sit down meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th January 2016 at BHTC offices.