

Buckingham, Hamilton and Ruskin Association

Minutes of the additional meeting held 18 January at 7 pm at 19 Hamilton Drive

1. Frances Goldman welcomed the committee and Jane Tomlinson to this special committee meeting.

Present: Joanna Clarke, John Elder, Frances Goldman, Tony Hughes, Christine McGuigan, Colin Miller.

Present by invitation: Jane Tomlinson

2. Apologies: Susan Triesman, John Butterworth,

3. The meeting was called to discuss the future of the View Point and garden on HPA. Jane made it clear that both she and John became involved in gardening the area because of concern for the future of the plantings. They had only been involved for about a year, and had now withdrawn from group who were gardening it.

It was agreed that we should aim to get permission to use in the short term, and investigate whether other, more formal management would be appropriate in the longer term. Although Jane has doubts about the CHT commitment to the area, on the whole we felt that it would be better to work with them. They have a long history of working in the area and have the resources to manage H&S. Any work that is done has to conform with the law and have planning permission if necessary.

The committee want the whole neighbourhood to have access to the garden. We felt it had potential for a meeting place, it already has some fruit planted and we could aim for a pollinators garden. It would probably need a tap to be fitted for this to work. The issue of noise and inappropriate behaviour was discussed, but we felt that if once we could make it a neighbourhood garden these would be less of a problem, as locals would be using it. It cannot be secured as there is an entrance from Hamilton Lane. We agreed that it was important that anti-social behaviour be reported to the local police.

It was agreed that once we have a strategy, permission to use and either have the agreement of the CHT to work the garden again, or a scheme for local involvement, we should hold an EGM to canvass local views and perhaps get a group of interested gardeners. This could be combined with the EGM for the changes to the constitution.

We were grateful to Jane for giving up her time to discuss this contentious issue.

Frances Goldman