

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No. 32 Poland House, 3/9/13

1. Present and apologies

Present: Chris, Marek, Chris, Peggy, Peter, Philip, Ron, Sheila, Stephanie, Steve and Trevor.

Apologies: Kevin.

Also present: Lynn McMinn.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

Living history - tank testing witnesses: The group of filmmakers, Ellipse, were still interested and would meet with Kevin and Trevor on a mutually agreeable date soonest. Everyone agreed that it would be a shame to miss this opportunity to capture live witness accounts of these events. Ron agreed to contact Ron King.

Action: Kevin, Trevor and Ron.

Dog excrement bins: ongoing. **Action:** Sheila.

4. Membership

Stephanie was warmly thanked for all her work on the membership and newsletters and for providing delicious refreshments at the committee meetings. FoNC member Lynn McMinn had kindly agreed to take over Stephanie's role and this was proposed by Ron, seconded by Peggy and agreed by unanimous vote. Thanks were expressed to Lynn for taking on this work. Membership now comprised 153 people.

5. Treasurer's report

Income 2013 to date: £2,104.95 (including carry forward of £880.95)

Expenditure 2013 to date: £1229.97

Current cash in bank at date of meeting: £874.98.

The Committee noted that expenditure exceeded income, but as long as the Chilterns Conservation Board was able to fund relevant activities and the reserves were not inroaded, there was no immediate concern.

The Butterfly Preservation Society was donated £40 for its help with the July walk.

6. Acute oak decline

Trevor and Phillip had found one oak with this disease so far, but had had no feedback from reporting this to the Dashwood estate and the Forestry Commission, the latter being the local and national lead on this. It was agreed to continue to survey the trees and to use the working group day of Sunday 29/9 to do this and also to look for any ash die back too. [Meet at Chapel Lane/Common at 10am.]

Ron reported that the estate had verbally agreed to deal with the overhanging branches on the access road along the Common from Chapel Lane.

7. Felling on the Common.

Trevor reported that this was not going ahead in AW13/14. This left in abeyance the planned re-planting of the juniper saplings in open spaces created by the felling and Steve agreed to follow this up further.

Action: Steve

Cont.

8. Summer events programme 2013

Fete: the rain ensured good traffic to the covered FoNC tent! The quiz was popular. Peggy reported that in 2014 there were plans for a covered marquee over the whole arena for a Naphill Festival.

Lost pubs' walk: this was well supported with over 30 walkers and Peggy suggested a historic buildings' walk in 2014, perhaps led by Marion Miller.

Mini Beast Safari: <10 children (event clashed with men's Wimbledon final), but the only children-specific activity so agreed to continue in 2014.

Butterfly Walk: again, a well-supported event to continue into 2014 but heavily weather-dependent, both on the day and as to the time of hatching of the butterflies - still no purple emperors spotted.

Bat Walk: a good evening with some sightings and hopefully to be repeated in 2014.

Drawing on the Common: this took place on 25th Aug. at late notice, but attracted 6+ attendees and it was hoped that there might be further events in 2014, read by Roni and Keith Wilkins,.

Moth trappings' evenings: ongoing, short-notice events.

9. Autumn/ winter 2013 events and future programme ideas

Bucks Invertebrates Group visit + moths tba, with Neil Fletcher: Sat. 14th Sept (also Bradenham Fete Day).

Pond Survey: ongoing survey, being undertaken by Tony Marshall & reporting back by year end. He had already reported sightings of bottle sedge in Daisy Pond and brown lace wings around Willow Pond. [Sec. Note: less common than the green lacewings, smaller and with a different vein pattern on their wings; its larvae are hairier too.].

It was agreed we would pay for this report on delivery and that Tony would be invited to make a short presentation at the AGM too.

Tony requested any Bucks names for local plants and insects.

Action: all.

Fungus Foray: Fungus Foray: 7/11 meet at 10 am at Forge Road.

Common edibles: walk and show the edible fruits and plants (and animals?) on the Common; an idea for 2014.

Tree felling with horses: likely that this could be seen in action at Ashridge Countryside Festival on 15/9 and it might be a suggestion for the Common if felling is to take place in the future.

10. AOB

Philip apologised for a computer glitch in emailing committee members; an enquirer as to the rights of commons groups, Tony Jackson, was advised to contact the Chilterns Conservation Board or Open Spaces Society; A Commons Day would be held in Chorleywood on 3/10 at £12 including a meal.

11. Dates of future meetings:

Monday 11 November at 7.30 pm at Poland House

Monday 20th January at 7.30 at Poland House

AGM: 7th February 2014 at 7.30 in Naphill Village Hall