

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No. 37 Poland House, 05/08/14

1. Present and apologies

Present: Chris, Neil, Ron, Sheila, Steve, Trevor, Lynn, Kevin, Philip and Peter.

Apologies: Marek and Peggy

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed.

Steve was still to contact Natural England at regional level as no one came from NE to the meeting of 4/8 with the Forestry Commission.

Thanks were given to Marion for her help with the FoNC stand at NapFest. An idea for next year was to have a treasure map of the Common showing the ponds. It was agreed that something to “do” should be part of the stall.

3. Treasurer’s report

Peggy forwarded her report: Cash in bank £1365.50 (end of June statement); income to date £1207.09, brought forwards £1121.82. Total income at 25/7/14: £2328.91

Total expenditure 2014: £963.41. Balance at 25/7/14: £1365.50.

4 Membership Secretary’s report

131 members YTD.

5. Progress work on Common Management Plan & Ponds

Natural England had not declined to support the FoNC management plan.

3. Proposed felling

Trevor and Phillip had met with Wessex Woodland’s David Hunt and the Forestry Commission’s Richard Pearce; they had walked the site including the ponds and the meeting had all been very positive. Wessex

was to get money for the fellings and a grant from the Forestry Commission for clearing holly. The phase 1 work was to be done by a 2-man team starting in September and to finish by Christmas. They planned to take out 30% of the qualifying trees and to stack the timber at the end of Forge Road for up to a year. Phase 2 would be in 2016 and phase 4 in 2018. Wessex agreed to consult throughout and had Trevor and Phillip's phone numbers. FoNC agreed to tell the village what was to happen via the website, its newsletter and notice boards. It was unclear how the holly roots would be removed; there was the option of using chemicals but that would be unlikely on an SSSI.

4. Working Party report

The next working party would be held on 8/9 and it was agreed not to do any work on the phase 1 area or the major rides, but to concentrate on the paths onto the Common (excluding the Forge Road one). Ron noted that he planned to use the brush cutter over winter to keep the brush down low so as to facilitate early 2015 mowing.

The working party also agreed to mend the notice board at the end of Chapel Lane.

5. Short/long walks

These were all going well and that would be a London walk soon in addition to the regular August long walk.

6. Programme of events 2014

Invertebrate group: FoNC outnumbered the group's numbers, no rarities had been found but a report would list the findings in due course;

Moth walk – this did not take place;

Bat walk – due 12/9/14;

Fungus Foray – due Sunday 26/10 meet VH at 10am;

Gruffalo event with Jill Eyres: Sat. 20/9/14

Imagine: art & photo exhibition at Booker memorial Hall 14/8

NB: Peter had spotted some silver wash butterflies nearby to the Common over the summer.

7. 2015 events

Mini beast safari – agreed to bring this back in 2015.

8. 2014 AGM

Some speaker ideas included Sir Francis, Nick Wheeler Robinson and Gill Kent; tentative date was 6/2/15 [hall booked that night so now Friday 13/2/15].

9. Next meeting

Tuesday 21st October in Poland House at 7.30pm.