

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No. 43
Poland House, 9/11/15

1. Present and apologies

Present: Chris, John, Marek, Peggy, Phillip, Ron, Sheila and Trevor.

Apologies: Lynn, Kevin, Neil & Peter.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

3. Treasurer's report

Peggy reported 2015 income to date: £644.20 from subs (+ b/f £1355.50) and expenditure YTD: £ 452.53. Actual cash in hand in the bank at 22/10/15 was £1528.37.

4. Membership Secretary's report

Lynn emailed to say that Fonc membership was currently 127 members plus 2 life members and that 5 new members had been recruited in the last couple of months from new long walkers.

5. Working parties

Peter emailed to report that there had been 4 work parties since the last meeting, 3 on Sunday mornings including Ron and his team brush cutting along the edge of the Common, giving a total of 31 man hours. Working had concentrated on H12 clearing holly left around trees by the contractors. There had also been a working party with the Chiltern Rangers on 1st October which involved the Royal Grammar School and the Brownies. (Report of this was circulated by email to the Committee shortly after the event). A lot of work was carried out on Shipwash, Small, Willow and Lady Horse ponds in just 6 hours. We contributed 26 man hours. This gave a total of 57 hours since the last committee meeting. On 18th October 6 junipers were planted out the along H21, protected by chicken wire, and thus far they seemed to have taken.

Next, it was planned to continue clearing H12 then turn onto H21 down to Dew Pond taking in some clearance of Ash Pond which now had more water in it and some green algae on the surface.

At the meeting, Trevor noted that he had approached the NT to ask if we might plant some junipers on its land, which was more open. He also noted that some paths on the Common were now so narrow as to minimise accessibility, a matter the committee agreed to address.

6. Walks

The short walk had attracted 14 people last week; the long walks were also well attended and the Annual Walks' Xmas Lunch had a record 50 people booked for December. Whilst walks were free, non-members were encouraged to join FoNC where possible.

7. AGM 2016

(i) The date of the AGM would be 12/2/16 in the village hall and it was hoped that Nick Watson of *Malt the Brewery* would be able to commit to speaking on this date. It was hoped to have some "sample" beers for tasting, which would be paid for by FoNC, and soft drinks too would also be made available free.

(ii) Peter had agreed to create a PowerPoint of slides showing 2015 activities and the chairman's presentation as in previous years.

(iii) Sheila would do the agenda and have copies available on the day.

Action: Neil, Peter, Sheila and Chris

8. Events 2015 since the last meeting and plans for 2016

2015:

Peter reported via email that the annual fungus foray had been very successful in both attendance (45 people), and finds - 18 fungi not reported on Naphill Common before were found, one of which was the first recorded in Buckinghamshire. Peter had circulated a separate report to the Committee and a report and list of fungi found had been uploaded to the website. Bucks mycologist group wished to come back again next year too.

2016:

Plans and ideas for 2016 included the following, which would be discussed at the first 2016 meeting following the AGM:

- (i) "Clean for the Queen", a countryside initiative around the 2016 90th birthday of the Queen, which might incorporate a village and Common clean/litter pick up.
- (ii) May Day - the Brownies now had the maypole (formerly at the school) and maybe some event could be built around this.
- (iii) Birdsong walk - an earlier one (6am) than previously, with maybe asking *Bon Ami* to open early afterwards to provide breakfast.
- (iv) Children's walk - bug discovery and identification walk.

9. AOB

- (i) The charity *Freshwater Habitats Trust* had requested permission to survey one or more ponds on Naphill Common, in order to take e-DNA samples to ascertain whether there were greater crested newts present. We agreed that Chris would contact them (done outside the meeting), to ask them to seek the landowner's permission (the Dashwood estate), but that if this was forthcoming, we would be willing to assist in locating the ponds etc.
- (ii) Village Hall matters: Ron, as FoNC's village hall rep, noted that he had raffle tickets to sell to individuals; FoNC also agreed to make a £20 donation to contribute to the raffle prizes; Peggy sought ideas on hall and Crick improvements for the VH strategic plan; Ron noted that there would be a silent auction as part of the 2016 NapFest and was seeking services and goods to offer -we agreed to discuss as part of our 2016 plans, the idea of FoNC contributing a walk in the woods (a personal tour of the Common), with refreshments at Little Oaks afterwards.
- (iii) Trevor noted that he had been asked about "Ladies Mile" by Downley residents, who were considering an article in a local newsletter, and it was agreed he would help in so far as he was able.

10. Next meeting

There would be a short meeting on **THURSDAY 7th JAN at 7.30 pm** in Poland House, ahead of the AGM.