

## FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No. 27

25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012

1. **Apologies for absence.** David Greenwood; Steve Rodrick; Kevin Bennett; Marek Pawlik.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting.** Read and approved.
3. **Matters arising.** It was noted that the two footpaths which the council has promised to surface have not yet been repaired. **Trevor** to chase.
4. **Treasurers report.** We now have a balance of £921.73 Our income for the year was £2442.40, but £1302.40 was brought forward from last year, so our new income for the year was £1140. Since our expenditure has been £1520.67 we are currently spending more than we are receiving.
5. **Membership secretary's report.** Since the last meeting we have recruited four new members, making 122 paid up members in all. Since the start of FONC we have had 240 different members.
6. **SSE damage.** There was a brief discussion of the events, including the subsequent meeting about the damage to the purple emperor oak and representations about damage to paths. In his absence, the contribution by email from David was read out. It was concluded that we must do all we can to ensure that such damage does not happen again (with the CCB).
7. **'No cycling' notices and the white van.** No one knew who put up the notices or who the van belonged to. The notices have since been taken down. It was agreed that the next working party would put a chicane of logs to stop vehicles from using the path. It was argued that we could not stop cyclists and would not want to stop children cycling to school along the path; the bridleway being impassable.
8. **Dumping on the Common.** The Assistant Clerk to the Council is aware of the "white goods" dumped behind Prospect Place and the matter has been reported to the West Wycombe Estate. **Peggy** will check on progress.
9. **Damage to the Great Beech and visit of Commons Forum on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.** It was reported that the loss of a large limb had left the tree "one sided" and hence vulnerable to wind. It is hoped that a tree expert will attend the Commons Forum meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December when there will be a visit to the tree. We will seek advice on what needs to be done.
10. **Clumps progress report.** Philip reported that felling and pollarding by the National Trust had already begun. Neil Harris had approved the painting by Philip of the Clumps and will use it for a display board. Philip showed the painting to unanimous approval by the committee.

11. **Tree felling on the Common.** Trevor reported that he had met a representative of the Forestry Commission who was involved in the plan to fell trees on Naphill Common. He reported that it is proposed to begin felling in 2013, probably in the autumn. They are to use the map and information supplied by FONC to guide the work and will work with FONC to ensure that the felling and holly clearance is done where required, and with no damage to important sites and trees.
  
12. **Programme of events.**
  - (i) **Fungus Foray. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2012. Forge Road 10am.** Confirmed.
  - (ii) **Pond Survey. Tony Marshall. February 2013.** It was reported that this has now been authorised and that the Chiltern Commons Project will pay the full £800 cost. Tony will soon place some items around the ponds to facilitate his survey. It was agreed that we would not advertise their presence.
  - (iii) **Open Meeting and AGM. Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013.** The format of the meeting was agreed. We will not have a photograph competition but will have a small exhibition of photos, paintings, craft work etc., on display boards down one side of the hall. Anyone can put in up to two items in the exhibition. They may be for sale if desired. We will offer drinks again. **Trevor** to confirm hall booking. Those present all agreed to remain on the committee and retain their present jobs. Trevor expressed some concern about the burden on the chairman. **Peggy** offered to take over booking the Village Hall, and those present agreed to share the job of minute secretary in rotation – if **Kevin**, the present minute secretary, agrees.
  
13. **Time sheets for Rachel.** The committee were reminded to send in time sheets to Rachel Sanderson for time spent on FONC business. It was agreed that people could send them via **Peter Davis** if they preferred. Peter already sends in details of work parties. **Trevor** to send copies of the form to all committee members.
  
14. **Maps in pubs.** David's message concerning these was read out and it was agreed that we would locate sufficient holders for leaflets and maps. Eventually we will produce a useful, attractive map for sale. **David** is organising.
  
15. **Historical and archaeological group (HAG).** Kevin's resignation as leader of HAG, under pressure of work, was noted with regret but understanding. Unless someone else is willing to take on the task, HAG will be absorbed back into FONC, and the activities will continue. Kevin was thanked for all his work.

Trevor reported that he has contacted Ian Kelloway of the Risborough Group and they are willing to continue with the survey of the R-B farmstead, but that they are presently occupied doing a survey for the NT at Smalldean. They are also willing to work with Jill Eyers who has equipment to determine the profile of the ditch. However, we need to find out whether Jill will charge and how much.

Trevor reported that Andrew Muir has begun his research into the history of non-conformist chapels in villages with common land, including Naphill.

16. **Walks.** Both short and long walks are going as well as the weather permits. Ron reported that the long walk regulars may have a Christmas lunch.
17. **Working parties.** These will begin on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October and continue on the first and third Sundays of each month (except on 4<sup>th</sup> Nov when there is the Fungus Foray. We will begin with path clearance at the main access points and place a chicane of logs to stop people driving up the edge of the common. We are committed to helping with the 'Best Kept Village' project. Alongside the working parties it is essential to complete the surveying and relabeling of the specimen trees.
18. **AOB.** In an email, David raised the matter of yellow arrows and letters on trees. No one knew who had painted these – possibly RAF? He also reported that a car was parking near the end of Forge Road and throwing out litter. Only the police or the W. W. Estate can deal with this. The registration number would be useful. Trevor reported that a FONC member Mrs Booth had contacted him. She had lived in 4 Westmoreland Villas until 1950 and was still fond Naphill. We thanked **Marek** for the use of Poland House and wished him a rapid recovery from his broken leg.
19. **Date of next meeting.** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012.