

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MEETING NO. 3

3rd March 2009

1. Attendees

Trevor Hussey, Peggy Ewart, David Greenwood, Una-Lynne Greenwood, Marek Pawlik, Michael Clarke, Daisy Leek, Kevin Bennett, Steve Rodrick, Peter Davis, Philip Hussey, Doug Wallace (part meeting)

2. Apologies

Brian Hill, Ron Collins,

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- The minutes of Meeting No 2 were accepted and approved.
- The Constitution has been finished and issued.
- The web site is much admired.
- Thanks to all who helped at the FoNC stand at Pam Smith's exhibition.
- The March edition of the Naphill and Walters Ash Gazette looks fantastic with the photos of the Common on the cover, Trevor's article inside and our events listed in the pin-up diary.
- Steve to check the Ordnance Survey licence restrictions, **action Steve Rodrick.**

4. Constitution

It was noted that we only had 10 committee members, the Constitution allowing 11. David Greenwood was voted in unanimously. Hence the full committee line up is: Trevor Hussey (Chairman), Kevin Bennett (Secretary), Peggy Ewart (Treasurer), Peter Davis, Steve Rodrick, Philip Hussey, Daisy Leek, Marek Pawlik, Michael Clarke, Ron Collins, David Greenwood.

5. Discussion with Natural England

Doug Wallace of Natural England had been invited to the meeting to explain some of the legislative aspects. He explained that three pieces of legislation apply to Naphill Common:

- (a) Open Access. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gives the rights to individuals to roam freely over designated land (ie you don't need to adhere to marked footpaths). The Common is included as such land. This right does not apply to horses or bicycles which must stick to bridleways.
- (b) SAC, "Special Area of Conservation". A European designation that applies to a network of sites across Europe, focussing on special habitats, rare and restricted species, etc. Naphill Common forms part of the Chiltern Beechwoods area.
- (c) SSSI, "Site of Special Scientific Interest". What qualifies Naphill Common is the undisturbed woodland habitat and remnant grassland habitat. The ponds with their Starfruit are recognised too.

To do work on a SSSI the Owner/Occupier has to apply to Natural England. In our case we will need to write to Sir Edward Dashwood requesting he writes to NE for permission for us to do work. Doug suggested we write to Dashwood with a list of activities we plan to do and get his approval. Keeping footpaths clear of vegetation is maintenance which the landowner is obliged to carry out, permission from NE is not required for maintenance. Neville Fey, a veteran tree expert, can advise what to do with veteran trees (for £400/day).

Doug advised we ought to produce a Management Plan for the Common. It was recalled that Graham Steven had drawn up such a document years ago. Regarding people using the Common for car parking and the construction of gravel parking bays, as these do not threaten the Common's features of interest they are unlikely to attract much interest from NE.

6. Treasurer's report

We have received £192 in memberships, being 39 adults and one child, 32 people joined at Pam Smith's exhibition. £71.10 was received from the old Naphill Common Committee. Thus total income is £263.10. Expenditure is at £86.42. Account to be set up at Natwest. **Action Peggy Ewart.**

Peggy and Steve to further investigate insurance cover, to be arranged before walks take place, **action Peggy and Steve.**

7. Letter to Dashwood Estate

Trevor sent a letter to Sir Edward Dashwood on 2 Feb to advise him of the birth of the Friends of Naphill Common. We received a positive email back.

8. "Talking about the Common" evening meeting on 20th March

The programme for the evening will be:

19.00 set up

19.30 start, teas available, exhibition set up to view

20.00 Trevor Hussey, FoNC Chairman "Introducing Naphill Common – its delights and problems"

20.10 Neil Harris, National Trust's Countryside Manager "Naphill Common"

20.30 Dr Alan Showler, Botanist "The Natural History of the Common"

20.50 Questions from the audience/memories and recollections, projects to be done.

Una-Lynne and Daisy will arrange the teas and biscuits.

Membership forms required **action Peggy and Peter**

A form and leaflet on every chair

Laptop, projector and extension leads, **action Steve**

Borrow Marek's display boards.

Old maps, **action Mike Clarke**

9. Future activities

19th April, Heritage Walk by Trevor and Philip, to be discussed at next meeting.

18th May, Health Walk by Ron Collins, to be discussed at next meeting.

We should have a stall at the Naphill Summer Fete. Trevor to contact Ted Chapman to request a space, **action Trevor.**

13th Sept is the Heritage open day. Perhaps do a walk with a Ponds and/or Archaeology theme.

10. Any other business

Open Spaces Society affiliation debated. They have good experience of solving encroachment issues. Find out cost and circulate by email, **action Peter.**

11. Next committee meeting

Tuesday 21st April 2009, 7.30pm, Poland House.

Distribution:
Committee members
FoNC website

Minutes prepared by: Kevin Bennett, Secretary 10/3/09

Minutes approved by:
Trevor Hussey, Chairman Dated