

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th April January 2022 at The Wheel, Naphill

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Peggy Ewart and Peter Davis.
Present: Chris Miller (chairman), Kevin Bennett, John Camp, Ron Collins, Trevor Hussey, Neil McMinn and Marian Miller (secretary).
- 2. Treasurer's Report:**
Bank balance: £3,495
Expenditure January to March 2022 = £183 on:
Buoyancy jackets (for pond work) £78
Petrol for mower etc: £31
Village hall hire (for AGM) £24
AGM speaker fee £50
- 3. Membership :** 78 members have paid their subscriptions so far. We had 120 members at the end of 2021.
Action point: Neil will send out reminders after Easter.
- 4. Notice boards:**
Two of the refurbished boards have been replaced (Downley Road and Hunts Hill Lane). There is likely to be a delay with the third board (Chapel Lane) since Tim Bird of Merlin Signs is very busy. He has not yet submitted a bill although we have offered stage payments.
Action point: Chris will pursue the offer of timber for new legs on the Hunts Hill board (treated softwood) and the frame will need treatment (type depending on Tim Bird's advice).
- 5. Working Parties:**
Ron Collin's Thursday group is continuing with holly clearance working towards the felling area (Forge Road direction). Holly stumps will need to be lowered and treated to prevent re-sprouting. The new West Wycombe land agent had met the working party and is happy with the working being done. Mary has retired from the Estate office.

Peter Davis had sent the following report:

We have started working on the Clumps again. Most of the holly and brambles has now been cut back. This summer we aim to dig out the roots of the remaining holly and brambles. We have started to pile up the brash left by the felling of the Ash trees ready for the National Trust to come up with their tractor and grab to remove them. We are placing the piles in such a way that the tractor should not damage the banks. We also hope to cut back the bracken as it grows up adjacent to the Clumps.

Trevor has written to the National Trust to ask if they have plans for replanting the Clumps.
- 6. Walks:** Bad weather meant there were only 6 on the last short walk. The May short walk will be later than usual, on 11th May, and the June walk will be part of the Chiltern Walking Festival.
There were 20 people on the last long walk around Lane End. The next long walk will be on Easter Monday.

7. **Napfest: Saturday 11th June:** Ron and Neil will organise a silent auction, but Neil asked for help, especially since Ron will be away on the day. There will be no marquee this year so stalls can either be in the village hall or outside, under gazebos. Neil emphasised the importance of the right location to attract customers. Suggestion of using the website and village Facebook page to advertise the auction.
- Action point: Ron and Neil to contact local businesses. All - Help needed with suggestions for people to approach and also with manning the stall. Final arrangements to be discussed at the next Committee meeting (26th May).**
8. **Tree felling.** Felling has ended. The deep muddy ruts have left parts of the Common impassable. Clearance and evening out the disturbed ground is pending and will be done by the Estate. Chris is in regular contact with the Estate's contractors on site. Trevor expressed concern that vehicles had crossed the banks of the ancient earthworks near Dew Pond despite his meeting with the Wessex Woodland manager (David Hunt). There are genuine fears for the survival of the earthworks which are not protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
9. **Any other business and events:**
- **Marian's history walk around Bradenham will be on Tuesday 21st June starting from Bradenham at 7.30pm and will take about an hour.**
 - Heatherlands – demolition and building of 3 new houses is now due to start in the summer.
 - Tree clearance in the wood off Stocking Lane, ostensibly limited to ash, has included felling of some beech trees. The area near Dilwyn Knox's grave has not been affected by the work.
 - The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is on 3rd June – FONC has no plans for a Jubilee event.

Next meeting – Thursday 26th May 7.30pm at The Wheel.