

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held Thursday 13th January 2022 at The Wheel, Naphill

1. Apologies for absence: Kevin Bennett.

Present: Chris Miller (chairman), John Camp, Ron Collins, Peter Davis, Peggy Ewart, Trevor Hussey, Neil McMinn and Marian Miller.

2. Treasurer's Report:

The accounts are currently with the Independent Examiner, Mr Harris. Without the £625 received for switching bank accounts we would have been in deficit for the year owing to larger expenditure on equipment, including a new trailer, engine and tyres for the mower. The bank balance is currently healthy at about £3,200.

3. Membership : 120 members have paid their subscriptions. We have 6 life members. It was decided to keep the subscriptions at £5.

4. Notice boards:

One board (in Downley Road) has been restored well by Tim Bird (Merlin Signs) who has now removed the board in Hunts Hill Lane. The feet of that board need replacement and we have an offer of wood via Facebook; John Camp offered to inspect the feet and report back. He is able to store the wood.

5. Annual General Meeting:

It was agreed that this should be held on Friday 4th February in the Village Hall but also be available on Zoom. John Shaw of Chiltern Rangers will speak after the meeting (fee £50). No teas will be provided.

6. Working Parties – Ron Collin's Thursday group is continuing with holly clearance; also spreading wood chippings on muddy paths. Peter Davis's Tuesday group has been working on Daisy and Willow Ponds. Willow Pond is deep and muddy and so potentially dangerous. The purchase of 3 buoyancy aids (total cost £91.32) was agreed. In Daisy Pond nearly half the flag iris and some floating sweet grass have been removed as well as scrub around the pond. Of some concern is the discovery of a plant which MAY be non-native, invasive Horned Pondweed. When finished with the ponds the working party will return to the Clumps.

Total hours: 2021 – 918; 2020 (only 9 months because of COVID) 436; 2019 – 729.

7. Long and short walks; both are now back on track following COVID. Over £500 was raised by the Children in Need walk.

8. Tree felling: Wessex Woodland are currently working on the third phase of felling for West Wycombe Estate. With the wet weather the heavy equipment has left large ruts. A temporary hardcore standing for the tractors has been created at the end of Forge Road next to the log-stacks.

9. Any other business and events:

- Heatherlands – demolition and building of 3 new houses is due to start in February.

- The Bucks Fungus Group (BFG) walk has become unmanageable because of too many participants so in future will be a private event for members only. Peter (who is a member) reported that there are 75 species of fungi on the Common, 13 of which are new (one near Dew Pond identified only yesterday) and he regularly updates the BFG website with Naphill Common information.
- Peter has 3 bat boxes and 1 owl box. Advice on their siting to be sought from Chiltern Rangers.
- Marian offered to lead an evening history walk around Bradenham in mid- June.
- A mini-beast safari was suggested.
- The village fete will be on 11th June with a Platinum Jubilee event on 3rd June.

Next meeting – Thursday 7th April, 7.30pm at The Wheel.