

## FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held at 7.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 at The Wheel, Naphill**

1. **Apologies for absence:** Kevin Bennett , Ron Collins, Neil McMinn and Trevor Hussey  
**Present:** Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), John Camp (JC), Peter Davis (PD) Peggy Ewart (PE), and Marian Miller (MM).
  
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** were agreed with the following amendments:  
**Item 4 – notice boards.** The new post was copied from the original. The drawing by Philip Hussey had been done when the boards were first erected.  
**Item 7 – Nafest –** John Camp has the display boards, not the banner.  
The minutes will be amended and reissued.  
The silent auction at the Fete was very successful raising about £1,400, half of which has been paid to the Village Hall.  
**Item 9 – Future events –** the Bradenham walk had been very well attended. The Beaver Scouts' pond-dipping sessions at Pickups and Daisy Ponds went well; the most interesting find was a water scorpion. The Bat Walk on 16<sup>th</sup> September was disappointing in both the attendance (5 people) and shortage of bats. The koi carp in Pickups Pond died when the pond dried up. The Parish Council had taken no action to remove the carp.
  
3. **Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's report:** bank balance is £3,856.04 and we have 95 paid-up members and six life members.
  
4. **Notice Boards:** the new post has been fitted to the Hunts Hill Lane board. Posts for 3 boards have been treated with boiled linseed oil. The Forge Road board is currently with Tim Bird for renovation.
  
5. **Working parties:** Peter Davis reported: we are coming to the end of working on the Clumps. We have removed all the holly and most of the brambles and bashed down the bracken although it keeps growing back. The National Trust has flattened the bracken adjacent to the Clumps but again it is growing back. We will visit the site again next year but only a couple of times just to do maintenance. We are due to start back in the ponds mid-October, but as the water level in the ponds is very low, I would like to start work again next week in Willow Pond. Willow Pond is the deepest and most difficult to work in but with the water level non-existent it would be a lot easier. Those present agreed but Chris will speak to Trevor to make sure he is happy with this approach.

There had been no grass-cutting or bonfires during the drought and paths on the Common have been very dry. The piles of chippings are available for all to be used when the paths become muddy again. Peter reported that there are 399 recorded fungi on the Common, 2 of which have been imported with the chippings. The Bucks Fungus Group is not concerned.

It was suggested that for next year the working party should concentrate on its original aim, that is to keep footpaths/bridleways clear.

6. **Walks:** All going well. The November walk will be brought forward to coincide with the Chiltern Walking Festival in late-October. Some walkers from previous Festivals have become regulars on the short-walks.
7. **AGM:** ideas for a speaker requested. Peggy suggested a talk on chalk-streams.
8. **Tree felling:** Chris will contact the Estate Office to check when the mulching is due. There is still one small area, near Daisy Pond, left to clear, which includes some ash trees.
9. **Any other business:** Discussion about how and where to fix the bat boxes and owl box. Chris will check on advice received from the Bucks Bat Group. The Christmas tree is unsuitable for the owl box since it might interfere with the climbers' access for the lights. Peter will investigate the Clumps as a possible site. Ladder(s) will be required.

**NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL**