

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27th June 2023 at The Wheel, Naphill. This was a special meeting called to discuss mowing equipment; the present mower has broken down and is beyond repair.

1. Apologies for absence: Peggy Ewart

Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), John Camp (JC), Peter Davis (PD), Ron Collins (RC), Neil McMinn (NM) Trevor Hussey (TH), Kevin Bennett (KB) and Marian Miller (MM).

2. Treasurer's report: NM reported that the current bank balance is £3,315.52. This included the net proceeds of the car-boot sale at the Fete of £124. This was felt to be too little return for the large amount of work involved, so will not be repeated. Many thanks to John Camp and Neil McMinn for organising this. Unsold items went to the Shaw Trust and Olio App; nothing to landfill.

3. Mower replacement: the following was agreed:

- The object of mowing is to encourage wild-flowers, control bracken, brambles etc and for the convenience of walkers along the Common-edge. Residents are very appreciative of the results. Mowing should therefore continue.
- The preferred option was to purchase a flail to be towed by the present mower. A flail is much better suited to the uneven ground on the Common. Whilst the present mower can no longer cut grass it is still a suitable tractor to pull a flail (but would need a ball hitch fitted).
- With variable mowing height options on a flail it would be possible to experiment with keeping certain areas mown to different heights to see if this encouraged more flowers.
- Sonia Goby had set up a "Just Giving" site, publicised on the village Facebook, which currently stood at £355. The advertised purpose was for the purchase of a new tractor and a flail. It is essential that this fund is ring-fenced and only used for that purpose. This will also be advertised in the July issue of the Naphill Gazette.
- CM will contact the Estate, parish council, Bucks Council and Dandara about possible funding.
- A sub-committee of JC, RC and NM was set up to investigate the types and prices of suitable flails and report back by the end of August.
- By that time we should know how much money is available from donations. NM thought we should retain a minimum of £1,000 in FONC's bank. The committee also agreed with PD's suggestion that a contingency fund be set up to meet the costs of repairs and purchase of new equipment in future.

4. Any other business:

The farmer at Bradenham Manor Farm had offered a visit around his farm but is not happy to speak at the AGM so a new speaker is required. NM suggested someone from the RAF. RC to sound-out his RAF neighbour.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2023, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL