

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held at 7.30pm on Thursday 18th May 2023 at The Wheel, Naphill

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Kevin Bennett, Peggy Ewart, Trevor Hussey.
Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), John Camp (JC), Peter Davis (PD), Ron Collins (RC), Neil McMinn (NM) and Marian Miller (MM).
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2023** were agreed.
- 3. Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's report:** Current bank balance is £3,338. Since January 2023 income from subs is £485 and expenditure £311. There are 94 paid-up members. Expenditure is expected to exceed income this year. The idea of raising the membership subscription to £10 had been mooted at the AGM without any objection, but no vote was taken.

Agreed: From 1st January 2024 the annual subscription rate should be £10 for an adult and £5 for under-16s.

- 4. Working parties:** PD's party is working on Shipwash Pond, much overgrown since last cleared in March 2015. The "tree-popper" kindly lent by the National Trust is proving useful in removing saplings. Once brambles and scrub have been cleared attention will turn to the pits, currently choked with weeds and grass. Digging them out may disturb wildlife but the alternative is losing the pond altogether. Small Pond is nearby as an alternative habitat for wildlife. Work on the other ponds will resume in October.
RC's party is continuing with holly clearance. Mowing is done carefully to avoid the bluebells (there is a good show again this year).
Total working party hours January to end of April 317 compared with 320 for the same period in 2022.
Honorary FONC membership has been given to Tim and Val who travel from Aylesbury specifically for the Tuesday working parties. It was decided not to extend honorary membership further at this time.
- 5. Walks:** All going well. The next short walk will be part of the Chiltern Walking Festival. The Bucks Fungus Group are no longer staging their big meeting but have offered to run a small meeting exclusively for FONC on **Wednesday 18th October (not the 19th) 2023**. Numbers will be limited to 18 and booking required. It was agreed that PD should accept this offer. Event to be advertised in the Gazette and Facebook.
- 6. Footpath marking.** Scoping is necessary before assistance, financial and/or practical, is sought. PD and CM to walk the Common to record location and condition of current markers.

7. Bat and owl boxes. The National Trust have kindly agreed to install the owl box at the Clumps. PD to enquire if they can also help install the three bat boxes in the same area. FONC will pay for any fixings required.

8. Any other business:

- Boondock Events are seeking about 15 marshalls for the Bradenham Bash trail-run on Sunday 2nd July 2023. Since they are offering a donation of approximately £50 per marshall this would be a worthwhile contribution to FONC's finances. CM to get more information from Boondock. RC and CM to ask their regular walkers if they would like to volunteer.
- Napfest – Saturday 10th June. Agreed that NM & JC should organise a spot for FONC in the Car Boot sale. Any sale-items to be delivered on the day.
- Mini-beast safari Sunday 20th August 2023 starting at 3pm at the Village Hall.
- Bat walk Saturday 23rd September, 7pm from the Village Hall.
- CM to contact Andrew Stubbings of Bradenham Manor Farm who has agreed to give the talk at the 2024 AGM.

FINALLY the Committee wanted to express its appreciation and thanks for the contribution of former Committee Member **Marek Pawlik** who died on 27th March. He was a remarkable man and will be sorely missed. Three committee members attended his funeral and FONC made a donation of £25 to the RSPB in his memory.

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