

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON (FONC): MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27TH JANUARY 2023 AT NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL

44 people attended.

Chairman's report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A Powerpoint presentation accompanied his report on FONC's activities.

The Working Parties, led by Peter Davis on Tuesdays and Ron Collins on Thursdays, were continuing, mainly with holly and pond clearance. A total of 913 hours work was carried out by the combined working parties in 2022. A request was made for more helpers.

The long and short walks led by Ron Collins (third Monday of the month) and Chris Miller (first Wednesday of the month) respectively are continuing. All are welcome. Date and time details are on the FONC website. Thanks to Ron Collins for organising the Children in Need walk on the 22nd November 2022, which had raised £450. The total raised for Children in Need since 2017 is £2,348.

Naphill Fete – FONC's Silent Auction has been a great success and thanks were due to Neil McMinn and Ron Collins for all their hard work over the years. However they felt it was time for a change and would be stepping down this year. A request was made for volunteers to take over their rôle. If there was no Silent Auction an alternative means of fund-raising would be required.

FONC Membership Subscription – this has been £5 since FONC was established in 2008. FONC's expenditure is mainly on insurance and machinery for conservation work. In order to cover increasing costs the Committee was recommending an increase to £10 beginning in 2024. There were no objections from the floor.

Bat walk – a repeat of this popular event was planned for summer 2023.

Information boards – the refurbishment of all five boards had been completed at a total cost of about £1,300, half of which was met by a grant from Buckinghamshire Council's Community Fund.

West Wycombe Estate Tree Felling – planned work was completed in 2022. Whilst the programme is not complete the Estate had no plans for more work in 2023. The Chairman is in regular contact with the Estate's contractors. There is a noticeable difference in the thinned areas. e.g. the proliferation of foxgloves.

Membership and Treasurer's report

The accounts were displayed and showed a deficit of £120 for 2022. This is not of concern provided the subscription can be raised to £10 next year to meet increasing costs. Thanks to John Harris for inspecting the accounts.

Election of committee new members would be welcome, to encourage a fresh approach. FONC's activities were currently publicised via the Naphill Gazette, the village Facebook pages and FONC's website. Thanks were due to Peter Davis, our webmaster.

All the remaining current members were elected unopposed.

Chris Miller (Chairman)

Neil McMinn (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

Marian Miller (Secretary)

Peter Davis (Webmaster)

Kevin Bennett

John Camp

Ron Collins

Peggy Ewart

Trevor Hussey

Any other business

Some signposts on the Common need replacing. This will be a forthcoming project for FONC and the Chairman will be in touch with West Wycombe Estate about this.

The AGM was followed by an illustrated presentation on local chair-making given by Keith Spencer, a volunteer at Wycombe Museum.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.