

## FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at The Wheel, Naphill

1. **Apologies for absence from:** Kevin Bennett, Peggy Ewart, Philip Hussey and Lynn McMinn.

**Present:** Chris Miller (chairman), John Camp, Ron Collins, Peter Davies, Trevor Hussey, Neil McMinn, Marek Pawlik. In the absence of a Secretary (volunteer still required) the minutes were taken by Marian Miller.

2. **Action Points from previous Committee Meeting and Matters arising:**

- a. Way-mark posts – Peter has a map showing location of the original posts and will check the position on the ground. CM awaiting a response from the Chiltern Society. West Wycombe Estate has no objection, but we might need their help when it comes to the supply and installation of any new posts. RC has a post driver and a stock of round posts.

**Action: PD**

- b. “Beating the bounds” as part of the Hughenden PC celebrations. CM will lead a two-hour walk on Rogation Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May – starting at 10.30am from the Village Hall.

**Action: CM**

- c. TH has had no news from the Ph.D. student about Denner Hill stone.

- d. No news from Paul Hardinge who had expressed an interest in joining the Committee.

**Action:** Neil will ask him to join FONC.

3. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Peggy is away but had emailed. £430 has been banked for subs so far this year, not including subs received by BACS. She will renew the insurance before the end of March and also deal with the change of bank signatories.

**Action: PE**

4. **Membership Secretary’s report**

In Lynn’s absence Neil said 100 members have (re)joined. A spreadsheet of non-payers had been circulated to the Committee.

5. **Napfest -8<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – FONC silent auction**

CM to request a prominent spot in the tent (like last year’s). RC said he hopes to include an advert in the May Gazette. Neil and Ron asked for ideas and also for help contacting purchasers **after** the auction. Apparently, some just pay and don’t actually take up the item they bought.

**Action: NM – All – for ideas to be auctioned**

6. **Working parties**

Work on the ponds has finished until October. TH reported that there is frog spawn in all the ponds. Holly is being cleared between Chapel Lane and Forge Road and from around the trees in the felled area. The mechanised party is working on holly between Downley Road and Chapel Lane, penetrating further into the Common. A map showing Phase 3 of the Estate’s tree-felling programme has been received but no timetable yet. PD said there was no point in clearing areas now which were going to be felled. TH expressed his concern about clearing holly during the nesting season, especially bearing in mind the SSS Grade 1 status of the Common and also that weeds in the ponds were essential habitats for

amphibians. It was pointed out that only holly around the trees was being cleared and without machines and that weed is being left in the ponds since the plan is to remove only 20% each year; it also seems to grow back again surprisingly quickly. Brambles are not being cleared. TH and PH are testing all the ponds for the presence of newts. Pickups is the only pond with great crested newts. There are palmate newts in Pickups and Daisy ponds.

PD has been contacted by John Shaw of Chiltern Rangers about offering help under the AONB's Landscape Partnership Scheme.

**Action: PD to pursue this with John Shaw. CM to investigate this Scheme.**

**7. Long and short walks** – all going well.

**8. Any other business**

- Bat Walk arranged for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August.
- Marian Miller to lead a "Lost Farms" walk, probably one evening around mid-summer.
- Tree felling – date to be confirmed by West Wycombe Estate. TH said the ancient farmstead needs to be marked. CM and TH to liaise and walk-around with Wessex Woodland nearer the time. PD trying to find out more about LIDAR.
- MP concerned about increase in numbers of roe deer. Muntjac are also making a come-back. The junipers planted by the National Trust near the Clumps are dead or damaged. FONC's junipers (from different stock) are all thriving.
- Speaker for 2020 AGM – Ron to enquire from a possible contact.
- A chainsaw has been offered and JC is checking it. However there are questions about training, insurance, safety equipment to be considered if machine is found to be usable.
- Bat boxes. All agreed it would be a good idea in principle but advice is needed from experts. RH suggested inviting local people to sponsor boxes. CM is awaiting response from the Brownies.

**9. Next meeting – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 7.30pm at The Wheel.**