

## Friends of Naphill Common 2013 AGM: Minutes

**Held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in Naphill Village Hall**

**Attendees:** The AGM had been widely publicised in Naphill and between 55-60 FoNC officials and committee members & ordinary members were present.

**Welcome and Exhibition:** The meeting was preceded by tea and coffee and an opportunity to view photographic, historic artistic and FoNC information.

**Chairman's report:** Chairman Trevor Hussey thanked everyone who had helped both that evening and those who contributed to the work of Friends of Naphill Common over 2013, especially the Treasurer and Membership Secretary and the rest of the Committee. He then made his report on the various activities of 2013 as follows:

2013 had been a busy year with a full programme of events and the commissioning of surveys. The FoNC walks had been popular and he thanked the leaders of both the long and short walks. He also thanked Peter and his teams for its 16 working parties, which had volunteered a total of 175 man hours to clear paths and scrub in a systematic and thorough way. The work had been aided by the purchase of a brushcutter, made possible by a grant from the Chilterns Conservation Board, thanks to its project officer, Rachel Sanderson, who had also organised an RAF Halton group to help clear the area around the Clumps.

As usual FoNC was at the Fete - with a stand inside the new marquee. Other activities included a "lost Pubs walk" (a new event led very successfully by historian Marion Miller), regulars such as the Mini Beast Safari (with John Tyler) and Bat and Butterfly Walks (Bridget Parslow and Dennis Dell respectively). A drawing and sketching event, led by Ronnie and Keith Wilkins, was also a welcome addition to the activities on offer to members and non-members.

FoNC had been very active in keeping up-to-date its surveys of the Common and details of species found there could be seen on the website, including details of some rare findings. Surveys undertaken included those of invertebrates, fungi, moths and trees (of girth over 2.5m or other significance, with some 500 trees now recorded). A major survey, funded by CBB, was undertaken of all the ponds. It showed serious deterioration over the last ten years.

The West Wycombe Estate planned to do some felling - with permission from Natural England and the Forestry Commission. FoNC had been invited to give information and make representations e.g. to ameliorate potential damage and to open up some areas, such as those where the juniper saplings, currently being nursed by FoNC, might be planted in the future.

Overall, it was hoped that FoNC would be able to write a management plan for the Common, such that it would be agreeable to the various stakeholders such as the Dashwood Estate, Natural England, local authorities, the Forestry Commission, the Chilterns Conservation Board and villagers etc.

Trevor concluded by thanking everyone again and by reminding them that FoNC had no official status or power; its activities and influence were driven by membership strength and numbers and he urged everyone to support it so as to keep FoNC involvement and consultation at a high level.

### **Membership secretary's report:**

Thanks were expressed to Stephanie Morgan, the membership secretary, who moved out of the area in summer who was kindly succeeded by Lynn McMinn. Membership was over 100 paying subscribers.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Peggy Ewart thanked John Harris for his auditing of the 2013 accounts; headlines were as follows (the full accounts are available on request):  
Income 2013: £1820.84 (+£880.95 b/f from 2012)

- Expenditure 2013: £ £1579.97
- Balance: £1121.82

**Election of New Committee**

The current committee had all agreed to restand and was re-elected enmasse, being proposed by Mike Mason and seconded by Richard Pushman.

The committee for 2014 thus comprised: Peggy Ewart, Philip Hussey, Peter Davis, Trevor Hussey, Lynn McMinn, Kevin Bennett, Steve Rodrick, David Greenwood, Ron Collins, Marek Pawlik, Chris Miller and Sheila Draper. The committee would elect its officers' positions at its first committee meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

There being no AOB, the formal part of the Meeting closed and was followed by a talk by Frances Kerner: "Wild and Picturesque Places': a local and national history of our common land" She was duly thanked by the chairman for a very interesting presentation.

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*Distribution: Committee members and FoNC website*

Minutes prepared by: Sheila Draper 7/2/14

Minutes approved by: ..... Chairman. Dated ..... **FRIENDS OF  
NAPHILL COMMON**