

FoNC AGM 2016

Held on Friday 10th February 2017 in Naphill Village Hall

1. Attendees: The AGM had been widely publicised in and around Naphill and in the *Gazette* and was well attended by the FoNC committee and many members, with circa 48 present. Apologies were received from the following: Sally Ebdon, Kevin Bennett, Reg & Lesley Horne, Kathy & Ron Secker, Jenny Tench and John Tyler.

2. Welcome: Chris Miller, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a short presentation on FoNC activities in 2016:

1) The Common:

- a) Working parties: 244 man-hours had been achieved over 2 working parties in 2016, by the regular 1st and 3rd Sunday groups led by Peter Davis and the more ad hoc ones led by Ron Collins. Members wishing to assist anytime should please contact either of these men.
 - b) Pond maintenance: the ponds were all in a poor state and would be a priority for 2017 activities. Daisy Pond was choked with iris and sweet grass and work had already been started on clearance, which had to be done carefully in order to minimise harm and disruption to the pond life. Greater crested newts were still evidenced by The Freshwater Trust's DNA testing in Pickup's Pond, but none in Daisy Pond.
 - c) Tree felling: Phase II of The Common tree felling programme was due to have taken place over the winter of 2016/7, but as no grant had yet been made available to the estate, the management company scheduled to do the work had not been able to start; it was unclear if the work would be postponed or not.
 - d) Junipers: only 4 junipers remained on The Common and six of the cuttings taken and subsequently re-planted remained in good health. [The National Trust was also undertaking similar work near Bradenham.]
 - e) Tree identification and marking: Trevor and Philip Hussey had continued their work marking trees of significance on The Common. Many of the original markers had been removed by squirrels and had had to be replaced.
 - f) Japanese Knotweed: spraying of the large area of knotweed had been successful in 2016 and the site was being monitored for any resurgence.
 - g) Events on The Common in 2016: (i) Fungus foray in Oct; (ii) Mini-beast safari in June; (iii) Bat walk in August; (iv) Guided Common walk in Sept
- 2) Walks for pleasure: the monthly long and short walks, led respectively by Ron Collins and Chris Miller, had continued to attract good numbers throughout 2016; a Boxing Day walk was held for the first time too.
- 3) NapFest: FoNC had a stand at the Fete and its Silent Auction of Promises had raised circa £600 for village hall funds. Ron and his team hoped to do similarly well in 2017 and Chris urged members to donate promises, or suggestions for donees, to Ron.

Chris thanked all the committee members and others who had made all the above activities possible.

Chris then invited the Membership Secretary and Treasurer to make their reports.

3. Membership Secretary's Report

Lynn McMinn noted that membership was largely steady and that that three new members had joined already for 2017. Chris reminded everyone that subs. for 2017 were due and that FoNC relied on the income in order both to do its work and also to give credence and weight to its standing with the West Wycombe Estate and other stakeholders.

4. Treasurer's Report

Peggy Ewart first thanked John Harrison for acting as independent examiner of the 2016 accounts and then reviewed the income and expenditure (full details available on request and were circulated at the meeting).

FoNC income during the year = £ 574.00

FoNC expenditure during the year = £ 505.56

Income in 2016 exceeded expenditure by £ 68.44

5.2015 AGM minutes

These were approved.

6. Election of new committee

The current committee all agreed to stand again and was re-elected en masse unopposed, having been proposed by Marian Miller and seconded by Mike Poole.

The committee for 2016 thus comprised: Peggy Ewart, Philip Hussey, Peter Davis, Lynn & Neil McMinn, Kevin Bennett, John Camp, David Greenwood, Ron Collins, Marek Pawlik, Chris Miller and Sheila Draper + honorary life member Trevor Hussey. The committee would elect its officers' positions at its first committee meeting in March.

Chris thanked everyone for attending and invited suggestions for 2017 activities etc. to be emailed/phoned to him or any other committee members.

He then welcomed and introduced Bernie Knill of the National Trust who gave an informative, illustrated talk on Hughenden Park from Disraeli to World War II.

7. Conclusion and AOB

Chris thanked the speaker and all attendees and the event concluded at 9.00 pm