

FONC AGM 2017

Held on Friday 9th February 2018 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. Apologies were received from the following: Judy Redrup, Celia and Ian Duncan, Margaret, Graham & James Wagner, Roni & Keith Wilkins, Janet Potter, Geoff & Sue Lovell, Veronica & John Adsetts, Lesley & Reg Horne, Judy Dauncey and Christine & Alan Lewis.
2. **Welcome:** Chris Miller, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a short presentation on FONC activities in 2017:
3. **The Common:**
 - a) Working parties: In excess of 500 man-hours achieved in 2017, by the regular 1st & 3rd Sunday groups led by Peter Davies and the more ad hoc ones led by Ron Collins. They have been clearing holly over the footpaths & removing scrub. Members wishing to assist any time should please contact either Peter or Ron.
 - b) Pond Maintenance: Over the last few months, the team have started clearing some of the ponds being careful to leave behind some vegetation for the frogs & newts. Wessex Woodland have agreed to remove the Great Beech which fell into Dew pond.
 - c) This beech and its stump contain the very rare Lions Mane fungus and thus its removal will have to be carried out with care to avoid damage to the pond and the adjacent iron age farmstead.
 - d) Tree felling: This is expected to continue until the end of March. This thinning out exercise will allow more sunlight into the common. Wessex Woodland have promised to bring another machine to site to clear the branches and brush and then level the ruts once the surface has dried out.
 - e) Walks for pleasure: Chris Miller continues to lead the short walks starting at 10.30am on the first Wednesday of each month and Ron Collins leads the longer walks on the third Monday of each month meeting at the village hall at 9.25am. All are welcome.
 - f) Bat Walk: The annual Bat Walk was well attended with help from the South Bucks Bat Group.
 - g) Fungal Foray: This again proved very popular with well over 100 people in attendance including representatives from the Natural History Museum and the Bucks Fungus Group. Ten new species to the common were recorded bringing the overall total recorded on Naphill Common to 336. The Lion's Mane/ Bearded Tooth fungus on the fallen Great Beech proved the main attraction!
 - h) Village Fete Once again FONC had their Silent Auction stand at the Fete. The auction this year raised almost £1200 for village hall funds. Chris Miller thanked Ron Collins, his team and all those who contributed 'lots' for this excellent result.
4. **Membership Secretary's Report**

Lynn McMinn noted that membership was once again largely steady at over 100 and included six new members. Chris is keen to increase our membership and suggested we publicise FONC with other local groups.

5. Treasurer's Report

Peggy Ewart first thanked John Harris for acting as independent examiner of the 2017 accounts and then reviewed the income and expenditure (full details available on request and were circulated at the meeting).

FONC income during the year = £555.00

FONC expenditure during the year = £847.94

Expenditure in 2017 exceeded by income by £292.94 mainly due to one off expense for equipment and the heavy-duty mower used by the work groups.

Cash at bank stands at £1258.05

6. Election of New Committee

The current committee all agreed to stand again and were re-elected en masse having been proposed by Mike Mason and seconded by Mike Poole. The committee for 2018 thus comprised: Peggy Ewart, Philip Hussey, Lynn & Neil McMinn, Keven Bennett, John Camp, Ron Collins, Marek Pawlik, Chris Miller & Sheila Draper plus honorary life member Trevor Hussey.

Chris thanked everyone for attending and invited suggestions for other 2018 activities.

Chris then introduced Mike Fisher of the Fisher Brewing Company— a brand new nano-brewery in High Wycombe who gave an informative, illustrated talk regarding his brewing process. Samples of beer were well received!

7. Conclusion and AOB

Chris thanked the speaker and all attendees and the event concluded at 9.15pm