

# FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

## COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 22

4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### 1. Attendees

Philip Hussey, Peter Davis, Kevin Bennett, Marek Pawlik, Peggy Ewart, David Greenwood, Ron Collins, Steve Rodrick

### 2. Apologies

Trevor Hussey, Daisy Leek, Stephanie Morgan,

### 3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- Item 6; now 27 veteran trees noted, list could be 50-60 when completed.
- No further matters arising
- The minutes of Meeting 21 were accepted and approved.

### 4. Treasurer's report

£25 income for memberships

Total income this year           £1867.42

Total expenditure this year    £ 541.47

Balance   £1325.95 = cash in bank

### 5. Membership Secretary's report

5 memberships since last meeting, 150 active members. Still very good but it means the 78 still to renew have drifted away. This seems quite high. Try to find out why, action **Stephanie**.

### 6. Progress with Wessex Woodland Management

List of significant features has been emailed to all committee members by Trevor. More work is required as only 2/3 of the Common has been surveyed to date. The process is now speeding up but it's easy to miss trees with the dense undergrowth. Consider changing work parties to tree surveys. A large scale map needs to be produced to show the veteran trees and other points of interest. A list of notifiable actions is to be produced to go into the Wessex Woodland management plan. We will need a veteran tree expert to advise what needs to be done to best preserve the veteran trees. More ID tags are needed as the squirrels eat them, even the metal ones. The large number of dead or declining oaks is a concern. Acute Oak Decline or Sudden Oak Death to blame?

**Kevin** to write to Sarah Bacon about the possibility of FoNC joining the Village Hall Council. Ron has volunteered to represent us on at least some of the meetings.

## 7. Commons Day meeting

This was the launch of the Chilterns Commons Project at Totternhoe. It's a 4 year project and Alison Doggett is Chair designate. Jill Ayres presented "working with volunteers". Rachel Sanderson is a manager of the project.

## 8. HAG report

Projects completed

- Walk the Common (3 observational walks)
- Time line (now up and running on the website)

New active projects

- Geophysics survey of the farmstead, dates to be rearranged.
- Churchill tanks. Work party on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov is to survey the tank tracks. Ron King, ex BroomWade is happy to be interviewed, contact via Ron.
- Capturing recollections, interview technique training arranged for Friday 28 Oct at 7.30pm at Philip's house "Claremont". **Kevin** to issue the HAG contacts to Philip.
- Historical research group, Marion Miller has spoken to Trevor and Peter and will visit Aylesbury Reference Library shortly.

**Steve** to locate old aerial photos that may show archaeological features.

## 9. Future Programme

- 27 October Fungal foray, 10am at Village Hall. Next year make this more of a survey.
- 27 Jan 12, AGM and Open Meeting with Jill Ayres presenting a talk on fossils and rocks of the area.
- Second bat walk is unlikely now this year.
- Walks for Health, Ron has given dates for next set of walks to Trevor and Peter
- Butterfly talk in May?

## 10. Photo competition

No entries yet. Stephanie sent a flyer on 29 July. Prizes to be purchased. Committee members may submit photos this year but are unlikely to win!

**11. Any other business**

- Trees marked for thinning at the Clumps – some are wrongly marked, including limes and horse chestnuts? **Trevor** to contact Neil Harris.
- **Kevin** to send old clumps pictures to Philip, who's to produce an artists impression for National Trust.
- Himalayan Balsam. Philip has removed shoots 4 times and still it keeps coming. It may need 18 months of frequent attention to kill it completely.
- Claire Underhill's graduate report on Naphill Common is anticipated shortly. **Peter**.
- Marek reports Ravens are definitely living on the Common. Red Legged Partridges and Buzzards too.

**12. Next committee meeting**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 7.30pm, Poland House

*Distribution:*

*Committee members*

*FoNC website*

Minutes prepared by: Kevin Bennett, Minutes Secretary  
8/10/11

Minutes approved by: .....

Trevor Hussey, Chairman  
Dated