

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 23

29th November 2011

1. Attendees

Philip Hussey, Peter Davis, Kevin Bennett, Peggy Ewart, David Greenwood, Ron Collins, Trevor Hussey, Stephanie Morgan

2. Apologies

Daisy Leek, Steve Rodrick, Marek Pawlik

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- Item 6, Naphill Village Hall Council; Kevin wrote to the Council requesting that FONC be given a position on the Council. They have happily agreed. **Ron** is to be FONC's regular representative but for the meeting on 5th Dec **Peggy** will attend.
- Item 11, wrongly marked trees at the Clumps; Trevor has spoken to Neil Harris at NT, he says these trees are diseased and must be felled. We need to press for new trees to be planted, perhaps just inside the bank to avoid disturbing it. Philip read out an extract from Naphill Gazette no. 20. This referred to a belief that the Clumps were the graves of Roundheads and Cavaliers and that the trees were planted much later.
- No further matters arising
- The minutes of Meeting 22 were accepted and approved.

4. Treasurer's report

Peggy reported there had been no transactions in or out of the account since the last meeting so the balance remains at £1325.95. **Peggy** is to contact John Harris about auditing the accounts.

5. Membership Secretary's report

Stephanie reported there had been no renewals since last meeting. So we have 148 active members, 9 moved away and 68 not renewed. **Stephanie** to send a renewals reminder with the next newsletter.

6. Progress with Wessex Woodland Management

The list of significant features has been completed. It runs to 4 pages including 40 trees listed. Philip has completed his large scale map showing the veteran trees and other points of interest. The report and the map have been issued to:

- Jamie Stewart, Wessex Woodland Management
- Doug Wallace, Natural England
- Richard Payne, Forestry Commission
- Rachel Sanders, Chiltern Conservation Board.

Jamie Stewart is preparing a report and needs photos.

7. History and Archaeology Group report

Churchill tanks project.

- Two work parties have surveyed the tank tracks.
- Communication via email with The Tank Museum, Bovington, The Churchill Tank Project on the Isle of Wight and Ramtank in Canada. All have supplied us with useful information.
- We have also located a booklet giving the history of CompAir BroomWade, which includes reference to Churchill Tank assembly in Wycombe.
- Following training (see below) Ron King, ex BroomWade is happy to be interviewed, contact via Ron.
- **Stephanie** is pursuing a line of enquiry regarding BroomWade's archives.
- **Kevin** to write an article for the website.
- Parish Councils might have meeting minutes where reinstatement of the Common, roads and paths were discussed.

Oral History project

- Peter has converted a few tapes to digital and put them onto the website but the process is too memory intensive for all the tapes to go on the site. Agreed for **Peter** to copy tapes onto CDs for circulation amongst members to protect tapes from damage and loss.
- Philip, Kevin and Marion were trained in oral history techniques by Stephen, this session is to be repeated by Kevin on 30/11/11 for Peggy and Kate.
- Interviews to start in the New Year.

Non-active projects

- Geophys survey of the farmstead, dates rearranged with The Risborough Group for Sat 4th Feb (if that's rainy, reserve date is Sat 3rd Mar)
- Survey techniques – training on Naphill Common. **Kevin** to propose Wed 22nd Feb and Tues 28th Feb to John Morris.

8. Future Programme

Ideas include:

- Butterflies talk and walk, Denis Bell, Butterfly Conservation Society.
- Small mammal trapping
- Tree walk.
- Mini-beast safari

9. AGM Friday 27th Jan

All committee members at the meeting confirmed they are willing to stand again in their current roles. **Trevor** to check with those not at the meeting.

The order on the evening will be as follows:

- 6.45pm, all committee members arrive at Village Hall to set up. Teas by **Daisy** and cakes by **Stephanie**. Laptop and projector by **Steve**.
- 7.30pm Meeting starts with review of the year (including HAG) by **Trevor**.
- Statement on possible management of the Common by **Trevor**.
- Photo Competition winners announced by **Peter**, prizes awarded by **Trevor**.
 - Certificates for winners and highly commended – **Peter**. So far two entries have been received.
 - A3 mounted print of the two winning photos (under 16 and adult) – **Peter**

- Prizes – **Peggy** and **Steve** to obtain prizes.
 - Treasurer’s report, **Peggy**
 - Membership report, **Stephanie**
 - Dr Jill Eyers to present a talk on Local Geology.
- Philip** to place posters into Black Lion and the Wheel.

10. Walks for health

13 went on the last walk. Next is 19th December from Northend returning to the Black Lion for lunch. All at the meeting expressed a vote of thanks to Ron for continuing to lead these walks. New posters to state “refer to website for details of each walk” - **Philip**.

11. Other meetings

8th Dec, Commons Forum, **Peter** attending.
 18th Jan, Commons and the Law, The Claire Foundation, Saunderton, **Peggy** attending.
 28th Jan, Historic Research at Green Park, documents, maps etc.

12. Working parties

Next one, Sunday 11th Dec, meet at Forge Road for footpath and/or Clumps clearing. Clearing the bracken and brambles at Chapel Lane has improved access greatly. Downley Road access point needs similar attention. Trevor to write to Charlotte Watts, the clerk at the Council, regarding maintenance of the cinder paths between the Common and the Crick.

13. Any other business

- Bob Dizon’s map was viewed and agreed should be sold or otherwise distributed through the village. **Kevin** to email map for others to check/comment on. **David** to check with The Wheel, Black Lion and Bon Ami whether they would consider advertising on the map and whether they would have a box to distribute them from.

14. Next committee meeting (after the AGM)

Tuesday 7th February 2012, 7.30pm, Poland House

Distribution:
Committee members
FoNC website

Minutes prepared by: Kevin Bennett, Minutes Secretary 11/12/11

Minutes approved by:
 Trevor Hussey, Chairman Dated