

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No. 36 Poland House, 20/5/14

1. Present and apologies

Present: Chris, Marek, Neil, Peggy, Ron, Sheila, Steve and Trevor.

Apologies: Lynn, Kevin, Philip and Peter.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed and there were no b/forwards other than those on the Agenda.

3. Treasurer's report

Income to 20/5 £1074.09

Expenditure: £933.21

Balance: £1225.70, including the carry forward sum from 2013.

The largest outgoing had been the brushcutter & necessary safety equipment (although we had received a grant, so it was reported on both sides of the accounts).

4. Membership Secretary's report (via Neil)

There had been 4 new members since the last meeting. Lynn was to chase lapsed members and hoping to attract non-payers and new members at June's NapFest.

5. Progress work on Common Management Plan & Ponds

Peter Greenslade of Natural England was moving to Hants and Rebecca Tibbetts was to take his place. It was agreed to invite her to visit the ponds asap in order to discuss with her the necessary work to ensure the Ponds' survival and to see what help might be available.

Marek noted the RAF's increased commitment to community and hoped they might assist; he also noted the need for ponds to have shade [he emailed details of suggested pond management after the meeting]. Overall the plan was to have two plans agreed: a full Common Management Plan and a sub-plan for the Ponds.

Meantime Steve would discuss at regional level the responses by Peter Greenslade to FoNC's work

Action: Steve.

6. Proposed felling

We still awaited a response to our request for no felling of trees: 1. with a circumference of more than 2.5 m and 2. Special trees as identified by us. We had also requested trees marked by us with a red cross to be felled e.g. around the ponds and clarification of the clearance of holly generally and undergrowth around the proposed re-siting of junipers. The felling programme was scheduled for Sept - Dec by a 3-man team and we had been asked to attend a pre-felling meeting and Trevor agreed to suggest some dates before the end of July and also to contact the Forestry Commission. Steve asked whether there might be grants available to us to help with the large task of tree marking over the summer and said he would investigate and also try and source some paint.

Action: Steve

7. Working Party report

Between Feb and mid-May 34 man-hours had been spent working on H2 to Fiveways and 18 hours on H20 between the power lines and the bridleway. The party was now awaiting permission to start on the ponds.

8. 2014 Programme of activities

- **NapFest:** we would have our usual table with a quiz for children (identification of leaves/fruits and match them up with the correct tree) and Trevor's animal skulls. There would also be some information about the felling to emphasise its positive aspects. Marion Miller had also got some old maps from 1900 to blow up to A3 size for display and there would be an opportunity to collect subs. Marek kindly agreed to loan his Boards which Trevor would collect from him.
- **Historical walk led by Marion Miller:** Tuesday 24th June, meet at the Wheel at 7pm. Trevor and Marion to liaise re. route and owners' permissions.
Action: Trevor
- **Bat walk** - led by Bridget Parslow, Friday September 12th, meeting at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
- **Bush craft skills** - family event tba: **Steve to investigate.**
- **Red Kite walk and talk** - Chiltern Society has information on this.
- **Fungi identification** - autumn event tba.
- **Moth survey** - this will take place, but not for the public.
- **Foraging** - idea only; Steve to investigate.
- **Birdsong Walk** - Saturday 25th May, led by Trevor and Chris. Meet 9.30am Naphill Village Hall. Peter would do a poster with a QR code on it.

9. 2015 ideas for activities

- **Victorian fair** - Peggy to investigate with National Trust.
- **Butterfly walk** - do again in 2015.
- **May Day Dawn Chorus walk** - idea to bring forward.

10. AOB

Noticeboards: they needed cleaning before the beginning of June; Peggy agreed to do Downley Road, Sheila Chapel Lane and Neil Forge Road ones.

Woodwork: this needed attention before the onset of winter.

11. Next meeting

Tuesday 5th August 2014 in Poland House at 7.30pm.