

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No. 40 Poland House, 23/04/15

1. Present and apologies

Present: Chris, Neil, Sheila, Phillip, Trevor, Peter, Marek, Ron, John, Kevin and Peggy.
Apologies: Lynn.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising that were not covered by the agenda.

3. AGM follow-up

Thanks were given to Nancy Hussey for donating her prize village hall booking to the FoNC AGM. The committee elected Chris as chair and re-elected Peggy, Sheila and Lynn as Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Manager respectively. Sheila also agreed to act as fundraiser for the group and invited committee members to compile a wish/shopping list of needs, so that she might seek funding. One source of funding might be FoNC giving local talks for a small fee.

Action: ALL - and Chris and Peter to look at assembling some slides for presentations.

The 2015 AGM could take place on 12/2/16, but the date would be confirmed once a speaker had been arranged. [Sheila reserved the date with the VH booking sec after the meeting.] Ideas included Nick Watson of Malt the Brewery and the Speen Horses Trust.

Action: Sheila to contact Nick.

4. Treasurer's report

Peggy reported 2015 Income to date: £310.20 from subs (+ b/f £1355.50)

Expenditure: £ 357.77 (comprising mainly annual insurance of £263.75; this cover might need extending to cover work in water, once significant ponds' activity started).

5. Membership Secretary's report

Lynn sent a note to say that only half the subs were in as yet. It was hoped that she might kindly be able to get out a newsletter before the next meeting.

Action: Lynn and Chris.

6. Working parties

Peter noted the following activities of the working parties:

Japanese Knotweed - they had burnt the remaining stems and large stems on the ground and there was no sign of regrowth as of yesterday. [Subsequent email exchange on this showed that there was a large area to be cleared and that the Estate had been politely reminded of its legal obligations.]

Holly and paths: they had cleared some holly along a path leading to Daisy Pond, working with Chiltern Rangers (8-12 year olds), who had been funded for a half term project. The working group had also done additional clearing around one side of Daisy Pond, had cut down remaining holly around Shipwash Pond and had also built shelters for wildlife (piles of logs) at Daisy Pond, Shipwash Pond and Lady Horse Pond

Clearing debris: several people worked with 3 Chiltern Rangers on 23/3/ and 10 students and 1 tutor from Berkshire College of Agriculture (total 22) to clear debris left by Wessex Woodland Management and from clearing at Shipwash Pond. A bonfire had burnt it all up by lunch time so they had moved to Land Horse Pond and removed holly from around a large oak tree. Over 100 man hours were clocked up in one day.

Future pond work: in about a month's time the working party planned to do some test 'clearance' to see the depth of Shipwash Pond, how easy or difficult it would be to remove dead leaves, sweet grass etc. There was a possibility of Mark Blamey (he supplies the cherry picker to put up the Christmas tree lights), helping by supplying and driving a mini digger if this was practical. Other activities might include mowing the entrances to the paths, cleaning up the noticeboards and the areas around them and litter picking. **Action: Sheila to contact John to express our continued interest.[Done.]**

Chiltern Rangers: they are keen to come back when they have funding and volunteers who can help.
Thanks: many thanks were expressed to all who have worked on the work parties.

7. Walks

The short walks were going well with 9-10 people on the Feb walk. The long walks for a year ahead had been planned and everyone who walked was a FoNC member.

8. NapFest

FoNC had a space inside the tent for a stall; ideas included splat the grey squirrel, snail racing and horseshoe throwing. Details would be finalised at the next meeting.

9. AOB

CCB: the CCB had asked us to commemorate the conclusion of the Commons Project; it was felt that a picnic would not be popular but an evening walk might be appropriate with perhaps the involvement of the Brownies or another Scouting troop.

Action: Sheila to investigate with Brown Owl, Ruth Daly.

RAF: Sgt Hutchinson had asked for FoNC assistance and there was to be a meeting on 7/4/15.[this was subsequently postponed because of the former's illness and a new date was tba.]

Forthcoming events: Fungi walk: 25/10; bat walk: TBA; summer evening walk:tba.

10. Honorary life membership

Trevor was thanked for his contribution to FoNC since its inception and presented with a bottle of wine and flowers from the committee. He was also made an honorary life member of FoNC.

11. Next meeting

MONDAY 11 MAY at 7.30 pm in Poland House.