

## FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING No 50 HELD 26 June 2017, 7.30pm THE WHEEL pub

#### 1. Apologies for absence and present.

Apologies from all those absent (and apologies too from the Secretary for the late notification of the meeting). Present were Chris Miller, John Camp, Peter Davis, Philip Hussey, Trevor Hussey, Ron Collins and Sheila Draper.

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting & matters arising not on the agenda.

The minutes were agreed.

Fete: The FoNC silent auction at the Fete raised £1.166 and thanks and congratulations were given to Ron and the McMinns for their work; Ron noted that 2018, next year, would be his last for this activity.

Woodland improvement: the autumn/winter Common work by Wessex management team was to go-ahead with the aid of an ongoing grant and without any commercial felling. An article, with a map of the area to be worked, had been published in the June issue of *The Gazette*; the area was now shorter than previously planned and now excluded the farmstead. The Husseys kindly continued to work with the management team and to mark trees of interest. The team had agreed to remove the tree from the pond, but paying special attention to the fungus.

#### 3. Treasurer's report - to follow

#### 4. Membership secretary's report – to follow

#### 5. 2017 activities

Fungus foray – Sunday 5/11 1pm

Mini beasts – agreed to reinstate this as previously popular: **action: Chris**

Bat walk – 11<sup>th</sup> August tbc (publicise via *The Gazette* hard copy and web, Naphill FB and posters)

Treasure hunt – not going ahead in 2017

Family day – Neil to talk to Mike Poole whose idea we think it was: **action: Neil**

Woodland sculpture – not sure what this was, so abandoned

Chiltern Conservation Board walkers' festival autumn 2017 – FoNC had been approached to include our long and short walks in the programme and Chris had agreed to change the date of his short walk accordingly; he and Ron would liaise re dates and to make sure any additional walker numbers were manageable: **action Chris and Ron**

#### 6. Working parties and tools:

Peter reported a total of 109 man-hours ytd (cf 56 ytd in 2016) across all the working groups.

His team had nearly finished the bank and ditch clearance around the farmstead and planned next to clear around the junipers and to mark out the area around the farmstead with white sticks and tape.

Ron's team were now adjacent to Blacksmiths in clearance and mowing and would next move up towards Chapel Lane.

John had submitted some additional £84.10 of ride-on mower costs (parts and fuel etc.), bringing the total spent to date to £228.65.

It was agreed to try and sell the FoNC hand mower, currently garaged at Trevor's, as it was now superfluous to requirements. He agreed to check the original purchase price with Peggy and we hoped to recoup some of the moneys- estimated at circa £50-60: **action Peggy and Trevor**.

#### 7. Long and short walks

These continued to go well; FoNC members Nina and Dave had kindly offered to host a BBQ after the August long walk.

**8. AOB**

Dog fouling: the parish council had invited applications for the siting of new dog waste bins. Any new bins on the Common would need the permission of the landowner i.e. the Dashwood Estate, which was under consideration.

Japanese knot weed: this was not completely eradicated, but new shoots were deformed and stunted and would continue to be treated by the near neighbour to the problem.

FoNC Walkers' Xmas lunch: Ron hoped to hold this at The Red Lion, notwithstanding its change of ownership – details tba.

**9. Next meeting**

MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017, The Wheel at 7.30 pm