

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held on Monday 17th September 2018 at The Wheel, Naphill

1. **Apologies for absence from:** Sheila Draper, Neil and Lynn McMinn, and Marek Pawlik.

Present: Chris Miller (chairman), John Camp, Ron Collins, Peter Davies, Peggy Ewart, Philip Hussey, Trevor Hussey. In the absence of the Secretary the minutes were taken by Marian Miller.

2. **Action Points from previous Committee Meeting and Matters arising:**

1. Chris will be giving a talk to the Naphill WO in November **2019**. Hall has been booked.
2. FONC has joined the Open Spaces Society. Sub paid on 4th June.
3. The Great Beech has been removed from Dew Pond. The Lion's Mane fungus has reappeared. Trevor reported that the nearby oak fungus is still there.

3. **Treasurer's Report:**

| DETAILS | INCOME | EXPENDITURE |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Carried forward from 2017 | £1,258.05 | |
| 2018 income to date (includes subs £610 and silent auction £2,271) | £2,921.00 | |
| Insurance | | £176.32 |
| Open Spaces Society | | £45.00 |
| Speakers | | £105.00 |
| Website | | £29.99 |
| Flail | | £50.00 |
| Tools & petrol | | £283.59 |
| Donation to village hall from silent auction | | £1,250.00 |
| Miscellaneous | | £16.00 |
| TOTALS | £4,179.05 | £1,955.90 |

FUNDS IN HAND AS AT 17TH SEPTEMBER 2,223.15

Expenditure has been higher than usual this year. Income from subscriptions does not cover expenditure so the amount carried forward and the proceeds of the silent auction are necessary to ensure we cover expenses and maintain a contingency fund in case of problems with the mower. Following closure of the NatWest branch in Princes Risborough Peggy pays in money via the Wycombe branch. Money can be paid in at the Post Office.

4. **Membership Secretary's report**

In Lynn's absence Peggy reported subscription income of £610 this year (equating to 122 members). Unfortunately the payers of some payments received by BACS cannot be identified from the bank statement. Suggestion that we might call on Sheila's IT expertise if Internet banking was enabled. John raised a concern over insufficiency of subscription income to cover expenditure but there was no desire to raise subs at this stage, bearing in mind the healthy bank balance and the continuing success of the silent auction.

5. 2018 events:updates

The Lost Pubs walk, Bat walk and Mini-Beast Safari have taken place and were all well attended. Peter reported that the Fungus walk has been arranged for Sunday 21st October with the same format as 2017, i.e. the same 3 walks all converging at the Great Beech. Start at 1pm from the village hall and return there c.3pm for 'show and tell' and talk by Chris. Finish by 4.30pm. Hall booked with set-up due to start 11am. The Fungus Group are happy both with FONC and the Common generally as a venue. It is not known how, or if, tree felling might affect the fungus walk either now or in the future.

6. Working parties

Peter reported that work on the ponds would re-start in mid-October. It should be possible to take advantage of current low water-levels and do some clearance in the middle of ponds. Total working party hours to date in 2018 are 510 compared to 522 for the whole of 2017. The Clumps are overgrown and Peter will be meeting Mat of the National Trust (NT) to discuss.

Trevor has 7 juniper plants – all male. NT have surplus junipers so Peter will ask them for some female plants. Trevor pointed out that whilst all FONC's junipers were thriving most of the NT junipers appear not to have survived. Planting of junipers -Trevor's plus any from NT - to be done in November.

Ron's mechanised working team are doing admirable work clearing the stretch between Chapel Lane and Downley Road but they do not have the manpower to mow the area opposite the houses nearer Chapel Lane.

Stumps from trees cut down by the team are a hazard to the mower. One day's hire of a stump grinder at c.£100 was suggested. John has investigated the Health & Safety Executive guidance (print out given to Chris) and no safeguards and equipment over than those for the existing brush-cutting are required. Hire agreed subject to Chris checking H & S guidance.

7. Short and long walks

Children in Need walk in November – minimum donation of £5 from each walker.

October's short walk date altered since it is part of the Chiltern Walking Festival. Details of all walks are on the FONC website. In Ron's absence Neil will lead the Boxing Day walk.

8. AOB

1. Ron has arranged for Michael Kushner to speak about Bletchley Park at the AGM on **15th February 2019**. Ron will be away for the AGM.
2. The BBC will be filming on the Common on 19th September for a Children in Need piece to be shown on Countryfile.
3. Heatherlands -as yet there is no decision on the most recent planning application but there is a rumour that the developer may be negotiating with an adjoining owner to acquire more land.
4. Tree-felling: Chris will contact Wessex Woodland to enquire about the next instalment of felling. Trevor is concerned that the SSI status of the Common may be at risk because of the damage to the soil. Also that nesting birds may have been disturbed with the felling having been continued into Spring. We should try to ensure that the extent of the farmstead is clearly marked to avoid any damage during the next spell of felling. Trevor and Philip will mark significant trees when the felling area has been identified.
Holly remains a problem. The fellers cleared some holly undergrowth but not holly trees. Trevor pointed out the lack of brambles for bird cover.
5. Peggy suggested that FONC should organise a social function to fill the gap left by the demise of the Horticultural Society. Peter will contact Catherine Carter to see if she might be interested in organising, say, a cheese and wine party in 2019. If not FONC could consider arranging a self-funding function using outside caterers.
6. Japanese knotweed: Peter reported there is very little following another recent treatment.

9. Next meeting: Monday 14th January, 7pm at the Wheel.