

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

held at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th April 2024 at The Wheel, Naphill (postponed from meeting originally scheduled for 18th April)

1. Apologies for absence: Kevin Bennett

Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), John Camp (JC), Peter Davis (PD), Ron Collins (RC), Peggy Ewart, (PE), Trevor Hussey (TH), Neil McMinn (NM) and Marian Miller (MM).

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January were agreed. CM reported that the talk which he gave at Great Kingshill was well received; thanks to PD for technical assistance.

3 and 4. Treasurer's and membership report. Bank balance is £3,147. Expenditure so far this year is around £170. Subs received to date amount to £730 but from fewer members (73 paid up). Because of the rise in subs from £5 to £10 this is already an increase on the whole of 2023's sub income of £500. Expenditure is likely to be about £1,000 for 2024 and if we receive another £250 from the Bradenham Blast this year income should cover all expenses.

5. Working parties: PD reported that the work on Willow Pond has been completed for this winter. At the Small Clumps his party has continued clearing fallen timber, holly etc ready for using the flail in mid-June. Clearance of holly from around the old juniper near the Clumps has begun and clearance will continue further along that path to the intersection of H20 and H2. Then holly will be cleared from behind the FONC notice board overlooking the Clumps with the Orchard next. Neil Harris of the National Trust (who look after this area) has yet to inspect and approve the work but this is unlikely to be a problem.

RC's party continues to remove holly trees, moving towards Little Oaks. This is creating more space for walkers and so helping to relieve wear and tear on existing paths. The Common has been exceptionally wet and muddy this winter.

PD reported a total of 347 man hours this year compared with 317 for 2023. This is very good progress especially in view of the wet weather.

TH asked about the treatment of ash trees on the Common. There are very few but, in any event, they are the responsibility of West Wycombe Estate as landowner.

6. Walks: The March long walk was cancelled and the April walk postponed because of bad weather. The bluebells, usually at their best in early May, are earlier than usual this year.

7. Mower and flail update: JC has bought a new battery for the flail. Payment accounted for in the earlier Treasurer's report.

8. Footpath marking: a recce (using the plan held by PD) required as well as third-party funding. CM to enquire. Hopefully a job for the MoD volunteers.

9. Events:

- Bradenham Manor Farm walk – date dependent on the farmer Mr Stubbings but possibly mid-June when the wild flowers are at their best.
- Bomber Harris room tour(s) courtesy of David Brown to be arranged. Maximum of 15-20 people per tour. Priority to FONC members with publicity via email.
- Bat walk – CM to arrange.
- AGM 2025 – suggestion of a speaker from West Wycombe Estate – CM to enquire.

10. Any other business:

- When dry, the notice boards need treating with boiled linseed oil (JC has supply). MM offered to help with this.
- CM to use newt traps in the ponds.
- Several committee members had received an email request to create a link on the FONC website to the Rehab4Addiction website. It was agreed that this would be inappropriate.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2024, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL