

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

held at 7.30pm on Thursday 26th September 2024 at The Wheel, Naphill

1. Apologies for absence: Kevin Bennett, Peggy Ewart, Trevor Hussey and Neil McMinn

Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), John Camp (JC), Peter Davis (PD), Ron Collins (RC), and Marian Miller (secretary) (MM).

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April were agreed subject to correction of the spelling of Rehab4Addiction to Rehab4Addition in item 10.

3 and 4. Treasurer's and membership report (sent earlier by email). We have 86 paid-up members. Bank balance £3,243.79. Since the last Committee meeting main items of income: Subs £140; donations £118; Bradenham Blast £250; Boondock £180. Expenditure: Working party expenses £138; Open Spaces membership £45; Insurance £184.30; Web-hosting £72.60; John Tyler £30 and 2025 AGM hall-hire £36. Summary £688 in and £505.90 out.

Some discussion about the drop in membership numbers and how more members could be recruited. It was agreed that any promotional leaflets must look professional.

5. Working parties: RC's party has five new members, making a total of about 12.

This party is continuing work in the same area.

PD's party has been clearing holly etc from around the juniper just up from the Clumps; also from behind our notice board overlooking the Clumps. Then working their way through the triangle bounded by H20 and H18. They will return to Willow Pond in about a month's time; here the central island has collapsed owing to clearance work in previous years working around the edge..

Total hours worked to date in 2024 = 1,028 compared to 1,020 in 2023.

Small black creatures recently seen in Small Pond may be fresh water leeches.

6. Walks: All proceeding as usual. The Christmas lunch will be in January 2025 at the Cricket Club in High Wycombe. This is open to long and short walkers.

7. Footpath marking: No progress except CM has ascertained that the Chiltern Society has a supply of the plastic discs. PD has a map and a survey is needed to see which markers are missing. Some discussion about whether the markers were really necessary; at least some appear superfluous.

8. AGM. Arranged for Friday 24th January 2025, 7.30pm. Village hall booked. Speakers Susie and Andrew Howard from Beech Dean ice-cream.

9. Events:

- Bomber Harris's room tours are not available at present.
- The Bat Walk has been postponed to 25th October because of bad weather.
- The Mini-Beast Safari, on a Sunday afternoon during the school summer holidays was poorly attended. Suggestion for future publicity through the school and Brownies.

- The Hughenden nature walk led by John Moorby was very well-received.
- PD has arranged a fungus walk for FONC members only on Friday 1st November (during half-term) led by Sarah Ebdon. Email to be sent to FONC members about this. PD and CM to act as guides. NB – The Bucks Fungus Walk on 13th October is open to Bucks Fungus Group members only and limited to 18 participants. PD will be leading the Group.

10. Any other business:

- A licence is necessary to carry out newt surveys in the ponds. CM may apply for one.
- PD is investigating the possibility of a lichen survey in 2025.
- MM has been asked to repeat the Lost Pubs of Naphill Walk, so a possible event for June 2025.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2025, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL