

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 Rehab4Addition to Rehab4Addiction 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