

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON (FONC):

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 7.30PM ON 24th JANUARY 2025 AT NAPHILL VILLAGE HALL

34 people attended.

(Lower attendance than usual might be explained by bad weather – Storm Eowyn)

Chairman's report

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation accompanied his report on FONC's activities.

The Working Parties, led by Peter Davis on Tuesdays and Ron Collins on Thursdays, Before and after photographs of Willow Pond, the area near Ladies Mile and The Clumps illustrated the extent of some of the work done on scrub and pond clearance. A total of 1464 man hours had been spent in 2024, an increase of 444 hours on 2023. More volunteers would be very welcome. Tools are supplied; no ongoing commitment and you can work at your own pace.

Planned work by West Wycombe Estate. David Hunt from Wessex Woodland Management had notified the Chairman of a plan for “ride-swiping” using a tractor with a mower along three of the bridleways on the Common, mainly the one which runs parallel to Ladies’ Mile. This would widen the way. No timing has been specified for this work and whether it goes ahead will depend on their other work commitments.

The long and short walks led by Ron Collins (third Monday of the month) and Chris Miller (first Wednesday of the month) respectively are continuing. These are free and all are welcome. Date and time details are on the FONC website. Thanks to Ron Collins for organising the Children in Need walk in November 2024, which had raised £475. The total raised for Children in Need since 2017 is £3,298.

Other Events. Apart from the annual Bucks Fungus Group event (now exclusive to the Group's members) they had kindly arranged a fungus walk in November for FONC members. Despite a generally poor year for fungi the Group found 90 species of which 21 were new to the Common.

The Minibeast safari on 11th August was poorly attended. Thanks to John Tyler for leading this. Thanks to Julie Hopton for leading the Bat Walk on 25th October, postponed because of heavy rain.

Membership and Treasurer's report

The Treasurer presented the accounts (with thanks to John Harris for inspecting them.) The accounts will be posted on the FONC website. The surplus for the year was £1,292.81. £550 of this was a donation, being part of the sale-proceeds of silver cups belonging to the now defunct Naphill Horticultural Society. This donation will be put towards a specific FONC project, yet to be decided upon by the Committee.

The bank balance at the end of 2024 was £4,551.78. A healthy reserve is essential to cover the cost of maintenance and replacement of equipment for the working parties.

During 2024 there were up to 94 paid-up members. Annual membership is now due for renewal. The subscription remains at £10 p.a. and can be paid into FONC's bank account – details on FONC's website.

Election of committee new members were always welcome, to encourage a fresh approach.

Peggy Ewart had decided to stand down from the Committee after many years' valuable service. Peggy had been involved with FONC from the very beginning. All the other current members were elected unopposed.

Chris Miller (Chairman & Short Walks)

Neil McMinn (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

Marian Miller (Secretary)

Peter Davis (Webmaster & Work Parties)

Ron Collins (Long Walks & Work Parties)

Kevin Bennett

John Camp

Trevor Hussey

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FONC's activities are currently publicised via:

The Naphill Gazette: www.naphillandwaltersashgazette.org.uk

FONC's website: www.naphillcommon.org.uk

Thanks were due to Peter Davis, our webmaster.

The village Facebook page

There was no other business

The AGM was followed by a highly entertaining and informative illustrated presentation by Susie and Andrew Howard on “Beechdean Ice Cream”.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.