

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held at 7.30pm on Thursday 6th February at The Wheel, Naphill

I. Apologies for absence, Trevor Hussey

Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), Veronica Adsetts (VA), Kevin Bennett (KB), John Camp (JC), Peter Davis (PD), Ron Collins (RC), Neil McMinn (NM) and Marian Miller (secretary) (MM).

Veronica Adsetts was welcomed to the Committee as a co-opted member.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2024 were agreed subject to correction of the spelling of Beech Dean to Beechdean.

3 and 4. Treasurer's and membership report. We have 62 paid-up members so far this year. Reminders to be sent to members who haven't paid yet. This can often be done informally but we need to be aware of our Data Protection responsibilities. Bank balance £4,420. If we keep a reserve of about £2,000 we need to decide how to spend the remainder. For discussion on this and on publicity for FONC see below under AOB. It was agreed that NM could dispose of papers which are more than seven years old.

5. Working parties: PD reported that work has finished on Willow Pond with more to do next winter. Work has started on Lady Horse Pond and will continue until the frogs return. (As at 8th March work has ceased on all ponds owing to frog activity). Next job will be clearing the area behind our notice board at the Clumps. The banks there are too steep for the flail. RC suggested the use of brush cutters. RC's group now has 14 members. They need two or three more sessions to finish the current stretch (parallel with Ladies Mile) and will then work on widening the path parallel to the fields, from Helen's gate to Daisy Pond. The woodchip files are useful for fungi but the chip needs to be dry for distribution.

6. Walks: All proceeding as usual although there has been so much mud this winter that some of the long walks have had to be changed or even aborted. The walks are free to all and are enjoyed by several non-Naphill residents.

7. Footpath marking: CM & PD to organise when the Common is less muddy. PD has a map showing 46 locations of posts. The new posts need a firm foundation if they are to last but the ground is very stony. Ideally a post six-feet long with two feet below ground. A 4"x4" post eight-feet long costs £9.60. Labels are free but without the footpath number. It is assumed that the Chiltern Society have the requisite equipment, know-how and manpower for the job so CM will contact them to see if they can help. The use of GPS and/or what3words suggested for mapping the posts. KB wondered if some of the cut holly might be suitable for posts.

8. Events for 2025:

- Bat walk
- Fungus walk
- Mini-beast safari (Beechdean have kindly offered free ice-cream for participants)
- Bradenham Manor Farm walk?
- Repeat of MM's Lost Pubs walk – on an evening around Midsummer
- Annual dinner for walkers but after Christmas

9. Any other business:

- Much praise for the excellent Beechdean presentation at the AGM; the promised donation of £200 from Beechdean has been received and FONC is grateful for their offer of free ice-cream to stimulate interest in the Mini-Beast Safari.
- Hughenden Parish Council has started work on Pickups Pond and Vincents Meadow using Chiltern Rangers and their volunteers.
- One of the wooden posts at the end of Downley Road is broken. Restoring it will be a big job since the posts are concreted-in.
- FONC's information boards to be treated with linseed oil (JC).
- Napfest will be from 13th to 15th June. FONC will have a table and run the tombola. Prizes are supplied by the Napfest Committee so FONC just has to provide volunteers to man the stall on the day.

Ideas for publicising FONC to attract new members, increase awareness of the Common and spend surplus funds

- Sonia Goby, who is retiring as editor of the Naphill Gazette has kindly offered a parting gift of a four-page spread in the Gazette (circulation 980).
- PD has prepared a specimen tri-fold A4-sized leaflet to include a map. Printers have quoted £200 for 1,000 and £350 for 2,000. This was agreed pending requisite artwork. Question over distribution of the leaflet and whether this could be done with the Gazette to meet their deadlines.
- A project to restore the trees at the Clumps. Trevor Hussey would know the types of trees necessary. PD will contact Neil of the National Trust to investigate feasibility.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL