

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th May 2025 at The Wheel, Naphill

- 1. Apologies for absence**, Kevin Bennett, John Camp and Trevor Hussey,
Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), Veronica Adsetts (VA), Peter Davis (PD),
Ron Collins (RC), Neil McMinn (NM) and Marian Miller (secretary) (MM).
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2025** were agreed subject to correction of the spelling of “woodchip files” to “woodchip piles” in paragraph 5.
- 3. and 4. Treasurer’s and membership report.** The bank balance is £4,565. £81 has been spent on equipment for the working parties. A donation of £200 has been received from Beechdean (with thanks). Subscription income so far this year is £642. We have 71 paid-up members. Committee members are encouraged to give gentle reminders to those who have not paid up but the membership spreadsheet of about 200 members needs pruning since some people are probably no longer living in the area.
- 5. Working parties:** PD reported good progress on holly clearing at the Clumps where a few more weeks’ work is needed. That working party will then move up the Common towards Forge Road on the path passing Ladyhorse Pond. RC’s party has been working near the bottom of Chapel Lane where there are still a few small trees to fell and will then move on towards Helen’s gate. Four of the notice boards (Hunts Hill, Downley Road, Chapel Lane and Forge Road) have been treated with boiled linseed oil and will be given another coat at the end of summer. Total man hours for this year are 597 compared with 377 for the same period last year. 28 volunteers have contributed to the working parties in 2025, an increase of 14 over last year.
- 6. Walks:** All proceeding well. The unusually long spell of dry, warm weather has dried the paths on the Common. The June long walk will be a history walk with Willie Reid.
- 7. Footpath marking:** No progress to report. KB to take this forward. PD has the map but position on the ground needs to be reassessed to decide how many way-markers are required and where.
- 8. Events for 2025:**
 - Bat walk 26th September.
 - Fungus walk in September? PD to chase this up.
 - Mini-beast safari (Beechdean have kindly offered free ice-cream for participants) 16th August starting at 3pm.
 - Bradenham Manor Farm walk? VA to contact Andrew Stubbings.

9. Napfest – Saturday 14th June: FONC to man the bran tub – lucky dip. Prizes and tub to be supplied by Napfest but two FONC volunteers required on the day. CM to circulate contact details for organiser Debbie.

10. Any other business:

- Agreed that PD should go ahead and make the FONC website secure at a cost of £42 per annum.
- CM reported that the Bucks Amphibian & Reptile Group have been conducting newt surveys at all the ponds on the Common and more surveys are to be done. They are reporting the results which will be put on the FONC website when concluded. They are also considering doing surveys for snakes and lizards by laying artificial covers.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2025, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL