

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

held at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th September 2025 at The Wheel, Naphill

1. **Apologies for absence**, Peter Davis and Trevor Hussey,
Present: Chris Miller (chairman) (CM), Veronica Adsetts (VA), Kevin Bennett (KB). John Camp (JC), Ron Collins (RC), Neil McMinn (NM) and Marian Miller (secretary) (MM).
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2025** were agreed. Under AOB there has been no reply from the Bucks Amphibian & Reptile Group but they have laid some reptile survey felt squares.
3. **and 4. Treasurer's and membership report.** NM reported that £538 has been spent since May 2025; £336 on equipment and £202 insurance premium. Income since May: £30 subs, £27 from the barbecue and £440 from the Bradenham Blast (payment for marshalling by FONC volunteers). The current bank balance is £4,478 and we have 77 paid up members. Metro Bank has introduced a £3 monthly charge. One of our members who came on the short walks, William Pratley, has died. CM and MM attended his funeral.
5. **Working parties:** PD had sent the following report by email:
Holly has been cleared from the area behind our Notice Board at The Clumps. Bracken has been cut down several times using the flail and a mower, adjacent to, and opposite, the Clumps. The wheeled strimmer (kindly donated by Richard Pushman) has proved to be very useful in cutting down bracken and brambles in these areas. The area around the Juniper has also been cleared. Starting in mid-October we will return to Lady Horse and Willow Ponds. Particular attention will be made to provide a good view from the newly installed bench in memory of Judy Whitehouse at Lady Horse Pond. We will also maintain any growth adjacent to the bench. Total man hours for this year to date are 1196 compared with 946 for the same period last year. 31 volunteers have contributed to the working parties in 2025, an increase of 16 over last year.

RC's working party is progressing well clearing the back path from Five Ways to Helen's Gate. The path gets very muddy in winter, so opening it to light and wind will help but the tunnel effect will be maintained.
6. **Walks:** All proceeding well. It was noted how many non-Naphill residents come on the short walks. The long walk on 15th December will be a history walk in High Wycombe, led by Willie Reid. The Children in Need walk will be on 24th November. CM volunteered to lead the long walk on Boxing Day in RC's absence.

7. Footpath marking: KB and PD have spent two days on a survey. There was some debate on the type and size of wood required, ideally 4x4 inch hardwood, with 5 feet above ground and 2 feet below. Sponsorship and supplier possibilities were discussed including Country Supplies (who have been generous donors to the silent auction at the Fete), Richard Stone (JC to contact) and Bucks Council.

8. Events:

- Bat walk on 26th September.
- The Fungus Walk led by Bucks Fungus Group for the benefit of FoNC members to be held on Monday 13th October at 10am starting from the Village Hall. It will be led by Sarah Ebdon as per last year, and with the help of CM and PD.
- The mini-beast safari on 16th August (a Saturday afternoon during the school holidays) was cancelled for lack of bookings despite the offer of free ice-cream from Beech Dean. How could this be remedied for next year? Change of day and/or time? Perhaps get the scouts or beavers involved?
- Possible repeat of MM's Lost Pubs walk in summer 2026.

9. AGM: Fixed for Friday 23rd January 2026 at the Village Hall. Vaughan Ward will speak about the "Long March" by allied prisoners of war in 1945.

10. Any other business:

- RC reported that the old oak tree recently cleared of encroaching holly, and with a girth of 18 feet, has been registered as a veteran tree.
- RC authorised to purchase new loppers (4 sets) and a First Aid kit for the Thursday working party.
- KB raised concern about the creation of the compound in the field next to Great Moseley used by the contractors working on the new water main. This has destroyed the remnants of a ditch, thought to have been the former boundary of the Common. MM to contact the Historic Environment Record officer of Bucks Council to see if there is any record of the ditch as an ancient earthwork.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2026, 7.30PM AT THE WHEEL