

**FoKW AGM**  
**JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2015**

**PRESENT:** Maggie Cook, John Cook, Clive Atkins, Frank Grover, Chris Christoforou, Gary Peach, Roger Seldon, Taffy Williams, Sylvia Williams, Rosemary Hewett, Mick Hewett, Chris Pick, Jill Pick, B Wiedemann, D Wiedemann

Email addresses of volunteers who attended:

Barbara and D Wiedemann: [barbarawiedemann@f2s.com](mailto:barbarawiedemann@f2s.com);

Rosemary Hewett: [rosemary.hewett@live.co.uk](mailto:rosemary.hewett@live.co.uk);

Chris Christoforou: [chris@christo.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:chris@christo.eclipse.co.uk),

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John Cook: [cooksjm@gmail.com](mailto:cooksjm@gmail.com)

The Chairman, Clive Atkins, welcomed everyone and introduced the committee members.

**APOLOGIES:** Dave Manley, Jenny Monk, Jack Owens,

**MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

Minutes of the last AGM meeting were accepted

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- \* **Cedar tree:** was planted
- \* **Management Plan:** the committee had a very good meeting recently with countryside officer Paul Burgess and has good connections with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). Taffy asked about whether the management plan contains details of work to be carried out. Will Paul Burgess include this as an addendum to the final draft?
- \* **BAT survey:** was not carried out so the committee will contact Steve Halton about the possibility of carrying out a bat survey this September
- \* **Strimmer:** one member of the committee has been certificated and we hope to purchase a strimmer with funding from CBC. The committee would like to see something in writing to say that CBC will pay for it. Taffy suggested writing to CBC to request confirmation and an order number.
- \* **Chestnut trees** in the wood seem ok. Gary said that the Chestnut trees on the Rushmere Drive will be taken down. How frequently do the rangers inspect the Chestnut trees?
- \* **Oakbank School :** Roger Seldon spoke to the head teacher recently about a number of issues including Knolls Wood and he was assured that the students would be well behaved and be supervised when in the wood

**PRESENTATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Clive started by asking if the FoKW objectives are still appropriate and asked the audience for suggestions for changes.

Clive mentioned FoKW achievements such as The Children's Event and the website. Sylvia's daughter, Sam, has suggested we start a Facebook account and has offered to maintain it. It would be a good way of communicating our events. All were very happy with this plan. Sam is already liaising with John Foreman and she would have been happy to look after the website too but John Foreman has said that he is keen to continue to maintain the website. Sylvia will be Sam's conduit. Mick Hewett suggested we could ask people to be our "friends". It might save us from having to deliver the number of leaflets we do at the moment. As Rosemary Hewett had pointed out at last year's AGM, the leaflets don't seem to be very effective in enticing many along to our AGM meetings so another approach may be more effective. It was agreed that we should follow up the Facebook idea. All wished to record our gratitude to John Foreman for his excellent work maintaining the website.

Clive went through a list of things that need to be done in the wood. We need to refresh that list at every committee meeting and go back to Paul Burgess for support. Amey hasn't done the grinding down of the stumps but they have planted new trees.

In terms of the things we have done, Roger added that we have also done walkabouts in order to determine the priorities for work parties. Also the notice boards have been regularly refreshed with relevant pictures and articles.

Chris thinks we should do survey of the flora and fauna; it would be good to have a balance. When he had a walkabout, he could see that there are gaps in the flora and fauna, although he was surprised at the number of bees mining in the ground. He offered to do a report based on his findings and let us have it. The surveys that have been done are well out of date.

Clive pointed out that we have a new system of working with Gary. Gary now informs the committee by email about mid-week work parties which are all dependent on kind weather and his commitments elsewhere.

## **SWOT**

Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats

What can we do to get more people interested? The Children's Events help to foster an interest among the children but that's not enough.

Taffy asked how the GST deals with larger sites. Gary has a team of volunteers on Wednesdays. It would be useful if we had a link with other groups. Would we get more numbers for work parties that way? We did meet with some residents living near Heath Wood but nothing further has developed

Gary said that he could use more helpers but he has to supervise them and there's only one of him. We have never used Gary's trained volunteers but it's on our list of things to do in the autumn after the nesting season. Next meeting we should discuss what are we going to use Gary's volunteers for during the autumn/winter.

Rosemary asked about Forest Schools Status. Doverly Down has achieved that and Dave has links with the head teacher there. Who looks after the seedlings during school holidays?

Chris Pick has some seedlings, one of which is a Monkey Puzzle, which he offered us. John Cook said that he will be happy to look after it and bring it on.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Roger presented the accounts. Very few transactions have taken place. On the income side we thank Jenny for the Waitrose donation we've already received; we're on the waiting list for the next round. We can access other grants but we need to identify a project and apply for another grant. We still have a healthy balance so we don't want to ask for donations unless we really need to.

Roger pointed out that we have spent much more on communications than anything else. Maybe the Facebook thing will help in this respect. It would be good to know if the newsletters are read or not. The website is definitely value for money.

We're also lucky to have Frank on the committee; he is an excellent craftsman and has produced items for us very cheaply. The birdbox kits are part of links with the community and with the children so they are worthwhile.

Accounts were formally accepted: proposed by Mick seconded by Sylvia.

The old committee stood down and Clive asked for volunteers for a new committee.

Taffy asked if Clive would stand again. Clive offered to stand again as Chairman; Roger will continue as Treasurer and Maggie as Secretary. Jack, Dave, Sylvia and Jenny are happy to stand again. Frank will stand down.

### **AOB**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their patience and introduced Chris Christoferou's talk entitled "Owls of Bedfordshire".