

MINUTES OF FoKW AGM

JULY 4TH 2018

	Actions
PRESENT: Clive Atkins, Chris Christoforou, John Cook, Maggie Cook , John Creasey, Mick Hewett, Rosemary Hewett, Claire Mills, George Monk, Jenny Monk, Jack Owens, Martin Purvis, Roger Seldon, Taffy Williams	
1. APOLOGIES Apologies had been received from Frank and Jackie Grover, Marjorie Hounscome, Gary and Nikki Peach and Chris and Jill Pick and Sylvia Williams	
2. MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM: These were accepted as a true record	
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES <i>Owl box:</i> Roger reported that there have been owls in the box this spring. He and Toni heard the chicks and Roger saw the mother at 4am one morning. It was concluded that it was a good thing that the owl box hadn't been moved as suggested at last year's AGM	
4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, CLIVE ATKINS Clive pointed out that if the FoKW wishes to change its objectives then the AGM is a good time to do so. Rosemary pointed out that according to the actions from last year's AGM, we should have changed the wording in the Constitution. It had been agreed last year that we should emphasise the educational element and it was decided that, under Our Objectives Item 1, the wording be changed from "potential educational value" to "facilitate educational opportunities". Clive will change the wording of the Constitution accordingly. Clive described how the FoKW operates: The committee meets 4 times a year with Gary in attendance. We hold Volunteer Sessions 4 times a year on Sundays during which we work in the wood. Dependent on the time of year, we carry out the following tasks: planting, clearing nettles, litter picking and removing dead and dying trees. There have also been ad hoc mid-week sessions with Gary which have actually resulted in a great deal of work being achieved and new volunteers "signed up". How do people find out about these ad hoc sessions when Gary is available? By their very nature, since they are dependent on the availability of both Gary and the equipment, they have to be organised at short notice, which is not ideal, but at least it gives volunteers a choice of mid-week or weekend activities. Chris suggested that we could send out a text to people if we have their mobile numbers or an email if we have their email addresses. It was pointed out that sometimes only a few people are needed for a task. This could be inefficient because we would have too many people turning up - not a worthwhile use of their time. The Children's Event was moved to the middle of the school autumn half term which has resulted in a good number of children attending. We have been clearing holly. Clive saw a fox and the children saw a muntjak deer in the wood. We have taken out rhododendron, sycamore, holly, nettles and, using the	Clive will change the wording of the Constitution

<p>chipper, we have been able to put the chips down on wet sections of the path. There's still work to do at the north end of the wood. Clive emphasised the need for balance; Knolls Wood is not a park. Clive then projected a list of achievements. When Paul Burgess (Central Bedfordshire Council Green Spaces Officer) visited he said that it would be acceptable to clear up to 5 metres each side of the path. We have planted a Red Oak but there is not enough space in the canopy to plant any more trees at the moment. There is a lot of growth from naturally self-seeded trees. Clive felt that the last Management Plan was a bit general but John Creasey pointed out that the plan is guidance.</p> <p>Our website is important for preserving archives; it has also been instrumental in terms of finding new volunteers. We worry that we are perceived as a clique so we want to invite others to participate.</p> <p>The Facebook page does generate interest in the wood. We tend to attract youngsters but lose them after a certain age. John Creasey pointed out that the same happens with the activities the Rangers offer at Stockgrove.</p> <p>If we want to extend our Volunteer Sessions it will be good to know what the tasks are and to call upon a "pool" of volunteers. We also need to keep a sensible safe ratio of volunteers to experts.</p> <p>John suggested we have another walk round the wood with Gary to identify what needs to be done and then find the volunteers. We are limited by the budget which CBC can give us (ie how many hours of Gary's time we can have). John Creasey reported that the budget is guaranteed till next March. If we work without a ranger there are insurance issues.</p> <p>It was pointed out that we have an ageing committee and ageing volunteers so we need to find younger volunteers. It was suggested that maybe we could knock on doors. We need to think about how we are going to get new members.</p> <p>Jenny's suggestion of an activity involving a walk around the wood could be a good start. Bedfordshire Wildlife Trust has asked Chris to do a walk/talk round Knolls Wood so maybe we could advertise something like this.</p> <p>Mick Hewett suggested placing an advert for such a walk in the local paper; it could also be advertised up at Rushmere. Maybe early autumn. Late September/early October. This is to be discussed at the next committee meeting,</p> <p>Maybe if we ask ourselves why we all got involved this might help. A newcomer to the area said that finding out that there was a group which managed the wood made him decide to volunteer. It was decided that we should try to organise an event which will be aimed at adults.</p> <p>All present praised Roger for his suggestion to attach a small box to the Sandy Lane notice board to hold copies of our newsletters. The newsletters seem popular. It was decided that we should purchase another box for the Plantation Road notice board.</p>	<p>The committee will arrange to walk round the wood with Gary to identify tasks which need to be done</p> <p>A new list of tasks will be drawn up</p> <p>The committee will discuss arranging an event in the autumn which will appeal to adults</p> <p>The committee will purchase another box for newsletters</p>
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<p>5. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER, ROGER SELDON</p> <p>Roger distributed the accounts for 2017- 2018. He said that all funds are now held in the Nationwide account not the Coop. There is not much to report: we are currently in a healthy financial position so there is no need to ask for funding at the moment. Virtually all our expenditure is for communication - newsletters etc. Roger thanked everyone for their support through the Waitrose green token scheme. Gary supplies the equipment needed for Volunteer sessions so our annual outgoings are pretty modest. In terms of website maintenance, Roger pointed out that John Foreman is very generous with his time; he is very concerned about Nature so he is happy to maintain our website at a discounted rate. Claire is our conduit so all communication with John should be through her.</p> <p>The accounts were accepted and those present thanked Roger for his ongoing work as Treasurer.</p>	
<p>6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2018 – 2019</p> <p>Clive is willing to continue as Chairman Roger is willing to continue as Treasurer The post of Secretary is now vacant as Maggie is standing down. No volunteers were forthcoming at the meeting so the committee will each take turns as minute taker at meetings until a secretary is found. The question of finding a new a secretary was discussed. John Creasey suggested using a LB Volunteer Service agency. Recent retirees may be looking for something to do. An advert in the local paper may be useful. Maggie will do a job description and will contact Andrena of the Bee Local magazine which is delivered free to all households.</p> <p>All other committee members are happy to continue. Martin volunteered to attend the next committee meeting to find out how he can help out.</p>	<p>Maggie will write a job description for the post of secretary and will contact Andrena of the Bee Local magazine to ask her to place the advert in the next edition of the magazine</p>
<p>7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Copper Beech Way FoKW members are concerned about a recent planning application to build a house in Copper Beech Way in the grounds of Number 10. Jack reported that he had received an email for our attention from a concerned resident of Copper Beech Way. The resident felt that the FoKW should know about this planning application since the grounds of Number 10 are adjacent to Knolls Wood.</p> <p>It was agreed that we should act as a committee. Clive will send an email to the concerned resident who emailed us and it was agreed that we should respond as a group and individually.</p>	<p>Clive will send a response by email to the concerned resident of Copper Beech Way</p> <p>The committee will consider its position regarding the planning application</p> <p>Committee members will send in their comments individually about the</p>

	planning application
8. The meeting was closed. A talk entitled "Creating a Wildlife Garden" was given by Chris Christoforou	