

FRIENDS OF KNOLLS WOOD
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 8.20pm at Rushmere Country Park Visitor Centre GST Offices

1	<p>PRESENT</p> <p><i>Committee Members:</i> Clive Atkins (Chair), Roger Seldon (Treasurer), Diane Liness (Secretary), Fiona Shillitto (Website & Social Media), Jack Owens and Martin Purvis.</p> <p><i>Members:</i> Helen Bryant, Tony Bryant, David Cheeseman, Ann Cheeseman and Antonia Seldon.</p> <p><i>Also in attendance:</i> Pierre Court (Ranger, Greensand Trust), John Creasey (Senior Countryside Officer, Central Beds Council) and Lisa McGee.</p>	ACTIONS
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2	<p>ADOPTION OF REVISED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and declared the meeting Quorate being attended by one third of the membership ie 12 Members from the total 35 Members of the Friends of Knolls Wood Association.</p> <p>He explained that copies of the proposed revisions to the Articles of Association, Notice of the Special General Meeting and Proxy instructions had been hand delivered and PDF versions emailed to all 35 Members of the Association inviting their comments and questions on the proposals. The Chair confirmed that this exercise had been conducted within the 28-day notice required to enable this Special General Meeting to be held.</p> <p>All comments and questions about the revisions to the Articles and the Proxy details received from Members had been logged by the Secretary of the Association. Further questions were invited.</p> <p>Martin was thanked for the vast amount of work he had put into ensuring the revised Articles of Association accurately reflected the work of the Association going forward.</p> <p>Proxy votes from Members of the Association in favour of the proposed changes to the Articles of Association had been received from:</p> <p>Jonathan Karmi, Sandra Oxley, John Oxley, James Taylor, Richard Wadd, Wendy Wadd, Sylvia Williams, John Williams, Terry Warburton, Rosemary Warburton, Jenny Monk, John Cook, Maggie Cook, Diane Clarke, John Lau and Julia Lau.</p> <p>Members present in person voted unanimously that the revised Articles be adopted from today's date 19 March 2024.</p> <p>The Chair declared that, with the votes cast by proxy, the two-thirds' membership threshold for changing the constitution was satisfied. He therefore declared the change approved and that the revised Articles were adopted forthwith.</p>	
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3	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p><i>Garden waste</i></p> <p>Concern about the increased risk of garden waste being fly-tipped into the Wood was raised since Central Beds Council's announcement that they were bringing in a £55 annual charge for green bin collection from 1 April.</p> <p>An article would be included in our next Newsletter and Facebook including advice on how to compost garden waste material. The possible presence of non-dangerous grass snakes in the Wood would also be noted.</p> <p>John Creasey noted that should anyone witness a fly-tipping incident they should immediately report it to Central Beds Council rather than confront the perpetrator themselves.</p> <p><i>Litter pick and Members' Social</i></p> <p>It was pointed out that there was still a great deal of work that could be done in the Wood. Fiona proposed that an extra Volunteering litter pick session be held on Sunday 28 April between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm followed by a picnic/social get together for Volunteers.</p> <p>Pierre confirmed that this additional session couldn't be funded by either the Greensand Trust or Central Beds Council and Ranger attendance would cost an estimated £500 to £600. Fiona explained about the Co-op Community Fund from which we had recently been donated £910.50. This fundraising exercise would continue until October 2024 and she encouraged everyone to participate via their local Co-op shop.</p> <p>It was agreed that an additional Volunteering session would be an ideal project for the Co-op fund and to possibly provide more bird and bat boxes.</p> <p>Fiona would advertise the session and liaise with Roger about dates for public walks.</p> <p><i>Annual General Meeting</i></p>	<p>Clive/Fiona</p> <p>Fiona</p>
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