

FRIENDS OF NAPHILL COMMON COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 19

3rd May 2011

1. Attendees

Trevor Hussey, Philip Hussey, Peter Davis, Kevin Bennett, Stephanie Morgan, Marek Pawlik, Peggy Ewart, Steve Rodrick, Ron Collins

2. Apologies

David Greenwood, Daisy Leek

3. Previous minutes and matters arising

- Item 9; Marek advised that one cannot use the 10 year rule on Common land for use in perpetuity.
- Item 11; Management plan, Ross Osbourn meeting was cancelled pending The Forestry Commission's plans for tree thinning on the Common.
- No further matters arising
- The minutes of Meeting 18 were accepted and approved.

4. Treasurer's report

£1366.41 balance. Insurance has been paid. Expected expenses include a donation for the Bat Walk and £60 for the Mini Beast Safari.

5. Membership Secretary's report

Of the 210 total membership, 138 have renewed and 72 are yet to renew. 45 of these are Naphill/WA residents. 13 new members have joined since AGM.

6. Project Future programme

- Walks for health now back to Mondays, Tuesdays didn't affect the persons participating. The committee thanked Ron for his continued efforts.
- 29 May Rogation Day, beat the bounds walk. Trevor is away so Ron to lead with Peter and Kevin in support.
- May/June Alan Showler's botany walk – decided to cancel this.
- 18 June Naphill Fete, FoNC will have a stand.
 - 10 or 12 leaves from trees on the Common – **Trevor**
 - Prizes for kids – **Peggy & Marek**
 - Tent - **Steve**
 - Orange display boards – **Marek & Trevor**
 - Maps and photos – **Peter**
 - Photo winners – **Peter**
 - Bucket for donations to FONC - ?
- 24 June Bats detection, 8.30pm start, Village Hall
- 26 June Midsummer picnic at the umbrella tree

- 17 Jul Mini Beast Safari. Involve the school. Contact Clubs and Brownies, action **Trevor**.
- 27 October Fungal foray, 10am at Village Hall
- November Photo competition
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7. **History and Archaeology Group (HAG)**

First meeting is on Tuesday 10th May starting 7.30pm at Poland House. Two new people are attending; Mrs Lavette and Lynn Symmonds, neither are FONC members and it was agreed we ask them to join. **Kevin** to circulate agenda. **Stephanie** to take minutes.

The terms of reference of the group is to investigate the history and archaeology of Naphill Common and to run it under FONC.

Possible projects include:

Spoil heap at Dew Pond

Ariel photos, Swindon photos archive – **Peter**

Geophysics machine – **Steve**

BLIS, HLC (historic landscape characterisation) – **Steve**

Timeline for the Common, charting it's changing area/shape

Interview people, recollections and records - **Kate**

Trevor to invite Jill Ayres of the Bucks Heritage Group to talk on archaeology at the next AGM

Disseminate the findings of the group's work in the Gazette, FONC newsletter, website and at meetings.

8. **Work parties**

Work parties are suspended till beginning of September due to nesting birds. Next one should clear the holly behind the notice board at the clumps (the National Trust own up to nearly Willow Pond). Then clear/open out the access points to the Common. Agreed to let the notice boards weather but periodically reseal the joints.

9. **Tree thinning**

The Forestry Commission has applied for a felling licence at the request of Dashwood Estate. It needs Natural England's approval as the Common is a SSSI. FoNC want to open out some of the glades so if this work is done sympathetically it could have our support. However, the last time felling was done it was sub-contracted to two men with no direction over them and they left the Common in a right mess. We should write to Doug Wallace explaining that FoNC needs to be involved in the consultation process as we know so much about the Common, eg:

- The carving tree and veteran trees

- Purple hairstreak butterflies on one oak
- An oak that's virtually evergreen
- A rare crab apple near five-ways

We can suggest where to thin around the veteran trees and the Junipers. We could offer to engage with Dashwood Estate and then liaise with the village over selective thinning. **Trevor** to write to Doug Wallace with Copy to Steve.

10. Any other business

- Advertise the photo competition at the fete
- Make a "how you can get involved" poster for use at the fete

11. Next committee meeting

Tuesday 21st June 2011, 7.30pm, Poland House

Distribution:

Committee members

FoNC website

Minutes prepared by: Kevin Bennett, Minutes Secretary
10/5/11