

FRIENDS OF KNOLLS WOOD AGM JUNE 12TH 2012

PRESENT: Helen Aldridge, Maggie Cook, John Creasey, Frank Grover, Mick Hewett, Joan Kiddle, Peter Kiddle, Jim Lyon, Pauline Lyon, Dave Manley, Jenny Monk, Malcolm Oliver, Jack Owens, Roger Seldon

APOLOGIES: Clive Atkins, John Cook, Rosemary Hewett, Bob Holland, Toni Seldon, Sylvia Williams, Taffy Williams

MINUTES OF LAST AGM MEETING: Accepted

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: In Clive's absence, Jack presented the Chairman's report:

The Objectives of the FoKW

- ✓ We want you and your family to enjoy the beautiful woodlands. Whether it's going for walks or lending a helping hand to our volunteers who maintain the landscape (and the creatures that inhabit it), you are most welcome.
- 1. Our principal aim is to maintain and enhance the overall appearance of the site, reflecting its history, location, amenity and potential education value
- 2. The focus of the management is to preserve important specimen trees while enhancing the rest of the woodland
- 3. To work with the Greensand Trust (GST) and Central Beds Council (CBC) to maintain Knolls Wood
- 4. To prevent exploitation of, or threats to, the woodland and local environment
- 5. To monitor long-term planning and involve the local community.
- 6. To preserve the history of the woods

Principal changes to the Constitution:

1. To rename Knolls Wood Association The Friends of Knolls Wood
2. Replace members with local residents
3. Replace subscriptions with donations
4. Replace South Beds District Council with Central Beds Council

Achievements during 2011 – 2012:

- Designed, procured, built and installed a new notice board at the Sandy Lane entrance
- Worked with John Creasey and now Bob Holland from the Greensand Trust to organise several working parties
 - 15 June 2011 – AGM (accept Minutes)
 - 10 July 2011 – nettle clearance along Monkey Puzzle Walk
 - 11 September 2011 – Bat Box building with local children
 - 13 November 2011 – bramble clearance to help the bluebells and specimen tree planting
 - 6 March 2012 – brush clearance prior to the nesting season
- Communicated with Central Beds Council on behalf of the local residents
- Updated the Constitution for AGM approval
- Collected donations and received money from Waitrose, and Town Council, to be used to further our aims

Next Working Party 22 July 2012

In addition to the report, Jack added the following:

* Thanks to Frank Grover for building the structure for the new notice board at the Sandy Lane entrance to the wood.

* Dave Manley has been liaising with John Foreman to update the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Our balance was £1541.15 this time last year; now, with recent donations, we have £2300.11.

We have a Coop account, but since there is no local branch we now have a Nationwide account too.

We have had a grant from the Town Council (£300) and a donation from the Waitrose token scheme

(£300). The new notice board cost us £888 but the whole finished item would have cost us an awful lot more if Frank Grover hadn't driven to Kensworth to select wood and built the structure.

In conclusion, we have a very healthy bank balance and we have already had discussions at committee meetings about what we will be spending the money on. No more collections of donations are needed for a while. It was suggested at one stage that we should make collections every three years.

CONSTITUTION

A lot of work has gone into the revision of the Constitution. This was formally accepted at the meeting.

COMMITTEE FOR 2012

The committee stood down and the new committee was re-elected as follows:

Chairman - Clive Atkins

Treasurer – Roger Seldon

Secretary – Maggie Cook

Frank Grover, Mick Hewett, Joan Kiddle, Dave Manley, Jenny Monk, Jack Owens, Roger Seldon, Toni Seldon, Sylvia Williams

Joan said that she may resign at a later date as they are planning to move house.

AOB

1. Maggie handed over a donation (£31.12) from the proceeds of the recent Redwood Glade Jubilee celebrations. Maggie will thank the donors by email.
2. Jack said that he would like to see some trees replaced (under the 2 for 1 scheme). Three beech trees have recently been cut down. He suggested that, now we have more funds, we should plant better quality trees. At our next meeting we will discuss the tree planting. Jack invited those attending the meeting to let the committee know if they have any views about what should be planted. Jack suggested planting a cedar as one has come down recently. Bob Holland and John Creasey will have a walk round and make some decisions regarding planting before the next committee meeting.
3. Pauline Lyon formally thanked Sylvia and Taffy for their recent hard work clearing the paths round the wood. Maggie to send a thankyou card.
4. Roger thanked Toni and Frank for refreshing the notices on the new notice board from time.

Jack concluded the meeting. This was followed by a talk by Malcolm Oliver from the local Geology Group about "The Greensand Ridge – What's Under our Feet".