

AGM KWA JUNE 5TH 2007

PRESENT: Clive Atkins, Carol Banks, Robin Banks, Maggie Cook, John Creasey, Tony Green, Victor Jones, Jenny Monk, Jane Parry, Ray Smith (23 Redwood Glade ray@lifestylepartners.co.uk), Jim Taylor (7 Redwood Glade), Taffy Williams, Sylvia Williams (6 Redwood sylviataff@btinternet.com), Pam Winfield (5 Redwood Glade).

APOLOGIES : Jack Owens, Liz Burnett, Pauline Lyon

ADDRESS FROM THE CHAIR

Victor introduced himself and the committee members. He expressed his sadness about the resignation of Liz Burnett who was unable to attend. He emphasised that the committee can only operate effectively with the help of the GST. He then introduced Stockgrove Ranger, John Creasey.

John went on to talk about the work of the GST and the KWA.

SBDC fund the rangers to do things like conservation, litter picking and tree planting. The rangers look after lots of sites around LB and have quite a lot of responsibilities. The Greensand Ridge stretches from Leighton Buzzard to Sandy. Groups like the KWA are vitally important and they do a great deal for the local area.

Victor then went on to express his appreciation of John who, he said, gives us 110%.

He went on to say that some people think the KWA is a residents' association. It is NOT a residents' association. Victor announced that it is the desire of the committee to put forward the motion to change the name of the KWA to "Friends of Knolls Wood". Victor also proposed that the committee should apply to achieve charitable status which will bring benefits. To keep the Knolls Wood going it will be helpful to have charitable status. He continued with a reminder of the objectives of the association.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To continue working with the GST and SBDC
- To prevent exploitation of or threat to the woods and the local area
- To preserve the history and legacy of the woods.
- We must be mindful that there will be more building near us; at the bottom of Plantation Road planning is being sought for another house. SBDC could just do what they want with our patch of woods. We must be vigilant.

ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR

The KWA has

- carried out 3 working parties
- planted 22 trees of 10 different species
- closely worked with GST and SBDC
- run an educational event for children

- had 2 committee members trained in First Aid
- provided larger dog bins and new dog notices
- produced seasonal newsletters

FUTURE PLANS

To

- amend KWA constitution and achieve charitable status
- improve the website and improve links with SBDC
- obtain the report from SBDC about dangerous trees
- carry out long term tree planting and preservation
- renew gates at Sandy Lane and Plantation Rd
- continue brush cutting of pathways
- work with the P3 to improve surface of Sandy Lane

We are planting, clearing and are monitoring the trees at risk; we are keeping up the pressure on the local authority.

What do people think we should be doing in the next twelve months?

Victor asked people to contact the committee if there is anything they would like the KWA to be doing. (People are invited to write, phone or email). If anyone is seen abusing the woods it would be good to report that type of thing, for example.

Jim Taylor suggested it might be a good idea for people to volunteer to be responsible for an area of the wood or a pathway etc. John Creasey will speak to Jim later about this. If everyone did their own little bit it would help. Litter, for example, could be picked up. With regard to Health and Safety, John said if people are interested in doing this sort of thing, they can become a volunteer with the GST. There is a form on the website and when you register, the rangers will talk to you about what is involved and what the dangers are or the pitfalls..

WEBSITE

Clive Atkins asked if anyone knows of a web designer who could help us to revamp the website. We could apply for funding to help with funding the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clive showed the accounts on the screen He would like someone to look formally at the accounts and check them. People have been generous so we should spend their donations wisely. We haven't splashed out on the website because the main priority has been the wood. If we achieve charitable status, we should investigate the opportunities to open a better account which gets gift aid

QUESTIONS

Did we collect donations rather than subscriptions last year?

We would like to change the Constitution so that people donate rather than be asked for subs.

What will we spend that money on?

Trees, plants, (several hundreds of pounds). Lots of trees are coming to the end of their life. At the moment we have filled every space available in the wood. We planted some very cheap (whips and native) but also some more expensive, exotic trees. The smaller ones survive better.

How much would a decent Redwood cost?

7 ft tall about £60

If there are valuable specimens, they can be stolen. We had a Monkey Puzzle stolen.

Rare Golden Chestnut.

We have one but even Kew doesn't have one. We have cleared the brush around it to help it survive. We are going to try and preserve it. We have been asking for advice about how to nurture it and we have planted some seeds. It has been overcrowded. At the end of January we opened up the canopy to give it more water. We don't want to give it too much publicity because people will come around poking at it.

Mr Smith of Redwood Glade said he has a Prince William Pine and they only grow in Scotland, according to Andy Jones. It is fighting for survival between another couple of pines.

The nursery which supplied us in January has not billed us yet. The Beds CC nursery (near Clophill) donated some trees. The Knolls Wood includes Beech Avenue (not private gardens) If a tree falls down in your garden, then the SBDC will replace 2 for 1. Beech Avenue will be dying off in our life time and we need to be replanting again. This is the sort of thing we need to think about for the future.

John C said that they did put in some Beech trees. He would recommend 10 – 12 ft with a guard, stake or metal guard to safeguard it if we were to replace some of the Beech trees on Beech Walk.

History of Knolls wood

It would be nice to have it on our website. We already have some on the website.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

Taffy Williams suggested that we re-elect all the current members. **Chair, Treasurer and Secretary** all agreed to stand again (Victor Jones, Clive Atkins and Maggie Cook respectively) as did the other members of the committee.

Publicity officer: Carol Banks

Other committee members: Robin Banks, Tony Green, Joan Kiddle, Jenny Monk, Jack Owens (in absentia), Jane Parry

A request was made for more volunteers but none was forthcoming. We welcome new people. Should we ask Doreen Cope if she wishes to get more involved or does she know anyone else who might want to help?

It was mooted that the association could help with the Heath Wood. The Heath Wood is past the Golf Club and towards the Old Linslade Rd. No-one there wants to start up an association. Tony actually helps as a GST volunteer so he already helps with Heath Wood.

RENAMING THE ASSOCIATION

The meeting agreed on a new name for the association: **“Friends of Knolls Wood “**

There was also agreement on the proposal to seek charitable status for the association. .

AOB

If you have any questions or queries send to victor@knollswood.com

Carol asked if we should do another competition for the new Friends of Knolls Wood title. Victor offered to launch this.