

**Friends of Linslade Woods**  
**Minutes of AGM held Friday 7 April 2017 at Southcott Residents**  
**Community Centre**

**Committee members attending:**

<b>Ken Barry (KB)</b>	<b>Press officer</b>
<b>Malcolm Chaney (MC)</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Brenda Harvey (BH)</b>	<b>Committee member</b>
<b>Judith Knight (JK)</b>	<b>Membership secretary</b>
<b>Jim Oliver (JO)</b>	<b>Committee member</b>
<b>Sue Phillips (SP)</b>	<b>Committee member</b>
<b>John Creasey (JC)</b>	<b>Greensand Trust ranger, acting Chair</b>
<b>Steve Halton</b>	<b>Central Beds Council representative</b>

**Apologies:** Ray and Shana Turner, Janet Wood, Elaine Millins

**JC** as acting chairman, opened the meeting at 7 30, and welcomed the 19-people attending.

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved unanimously.

**Committee members gave brief reports as follows:**

Press officer, **KB**, reported on the good publicity we received in the LBO for our 10-year anniversary celebration with MP Andrew Selous. The newsletter, published in July – with grateful thanks to John Trotman- was widely distributed. Our children’s walk (10<sup>th</sup> April) has also been publicised in the LBO

**SP** highlighted some of the FoLW achievements this year: The Green Flag was awarded for the 6<sup>th</sup> year, and we received an “It’s Your Neighbourhood” award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Thanks, were offered to everyone who helped make the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary day a success – CBC for the special bench, and of course the army of cake-makers! **BH** was thanked for her artistic entry to the All Saints tree festival at Christmas. Coppicing has continued and so has the path edging in Bluebell Wood – special thanks to **JO**, **MC** and **Dave M** for their physical labours. The Bluebells are gradually spreading, and a small experiment with seeds seems to be successful.

Membership secretary **JK** reported that we have 46 members. Subscriptions are to remain the same for the coming year and reminders will be sent out shortly.

Wearing another (wildlife) hat, she said that 46 species of bird had been recorded during the year, many of them breeding. There are increased sightings of Red Kites and Buzzards, and this year the Rooks are up to about 13 nests, but still building. All 4 tit boxes along the main ride were occupied and this year **Dave M** has made and installed another 9 boxes- please report any activity. There has been much activity in the pond and at the time of the meeting plenty of tadpoles

and water insects were visible. Common-spotted Orchids and Bee Orchids are beginning to show and the cleared area near the pond should be a good area to see them.

Mammals reported are mainly Grey Squirrel and Rabbit, but Fox, Muntjac and an occasional Roe Deer have been recorded. Please send in your records.

**MC**, Treasurer, presented the accounts; he had previously distributed a copy to all attending. A copy will be available on the website. Thanks to C H Porter for his assistance. Also wearing another hat, MC explained the work that he and others were carrying out to replace the broken fence along the Stoke Road. Estimates for new stakes are awaited.

**BH** made a request for anyone interested in joining the committee to come forward.

**Site Wardens' report.** Dave Booth, site warden for many years, gave an account of the wardens' activities during the past year. Some 700 hours were spent by the 9 (later 8) wardens, patrolling, dealing with litter (the equivalent of 10 black sacks full), making safe 6 bonfire sites and dismantling four dens. Some tree damage was caused by high winds and ageing trees and was dealt with in an environmentally-friendly way. Sadly, some graffiti and a deliberate oil spill had to be cleaned up. Network Rail worked on the rail tunnel area and footpath for 7 months, and O2 mobile mast contractors replaced a mast – both organisations caused some disruption but did provide some chippings for the wettest areas in the wood. Bluebell Wood has now a Conservation area designation and it is hoped that higher status – and greater protection – will be forthcoming. The full report will be on the website.

**Election of Committee:** The Committee stood down and were re-elected, with BH elected as a full committee member. JO has decided to stand down, and the committee is very grateful to him for his hard work. Magda Cosgrave has also joined the committee.

### **Guest speaker**

Caroline Luxford, a local bee-keeper gave a fascinating illustrated talk on Honey bees, Bumblebees and Solitary bees. She brought along examples of some deceased bees, photographs, a bumblebee nest and other items of interest, not least some tasty honey, and some beeswax candles. Everyone learnt a lot and she finished the evening by offering a mead tasting session to everyone at the meeting.

A big thank you to Mike Sumpter for looking after the website, and to Steve Halton and John Creasey for their friendly support and good humour.

The meeting finished at approximately 9 20.

