

AGM 12 April 2019

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Reports by acting Chair and individual committee members.
3. Election of Committee
4. Site Wardens' report 5. A.O.B
6. Guest speaker - Bob Hook talk on swifts

Committee members: SH - Steve Halton (representative from Central Beds., Council)
JC - John Creasy (representative from GST & acting Chair)
JK - Judith Knight (membership secretary)
MC - Malcolm Chaney (treasurer)
KB - Ken Barry (publicity)
MS - Mike Sumpter (website maintenance)
SP - Sue Phillips (committee member)
MC - Magdalena Cosgrave (secretary)

Apologies received from: Steve Halton, Mike Sumpter, Dave and Sue Booth
Clive and Rosie Palmer, Janet Wood, Sheila Meekums
Jim Oliver and Madeline Mathieson

JC - acting chair - declares the meeting open at 7.00 pm reads apologies and welcomes those present. He then mentioned:

- Woodland Trust Promotion, 5 free tree samplings sent by Andrew Selous, 2 birch, 2 hazel and 1 rowan. These are now planted in the picnic and pond area.
- The substantial work of a long line of hedge laying by the Stoke Road entrance to the woods, done mainly by the Tiddenfoot group with the help of some FoLW members, keen to learn the art of hedge laying.

MC - treasurer - distributed a paper copy detailing incoming and outgoings. Listing the balance on 31 December at £2,024.20. The treasurer also made reference to the Tesco grant success and explained expenditure for that will be decided in the coming weeks, in conjunction Central Beds Council.

- Victoria Harvey asked the committee if consideration could be made to create more glade area, a request which will be put forward.

SP - committee member - Displayed some of the awards gained during 2018 and talked us through our achievements: Green Flag award, A Gold award (represented by a wooden bowl) in the Woodland Category - on display at the White House in Leighton Buzzard and a Britain in Bloom Outstanding Level 5 Certificate. Many thanks to all those involved in helping to make it happen. SP also mentioned plans to have a Summer Walk instead of a Spring one to celebrate CBC 10 yr ownership - date to be confirmed.

SH - CBC representative - Due SH not being able to attend the AGM, JK read comments sent by him:

- The Linslade Tunnel Works. These were carried out for safety by Railtrack during late 2018. The construction team were careful and respectful of the woodland causing no lasting damage to the area.
- Health and Safety tree inspection, this identified a number of old deceased or a danger to road users that had to be felled. The work was carried out by contractors on 15th March

JK - membership secretary - Mentioned we have 45 members; renewal reminders will be sent out in a few days and subscriptions have not changed. As Wild life recorder she mentioned the following:

- Sparrowhawks bred last year, as did Tawny Owls, which are often heard, and there was one sighting of a juvenile.
- Nesting boxes are being well used – by Great Tits and Blue Tits.
- Song Thrush numbers appear to be low.
- On one June day 450 Common Spotted-orchids were counted!
- A reminder to the group and all those who enjoy the woods, to record and send wildlife sightings to either herself (birds & plants) or Rory (insects and other taxa).

Election of Committee Members: As is customary the committee resigned as a whole, attendees were asked by JC - acting chair- if anyone wished to put themselves forward for any of the posts. Nobody did. The existing committee agreed to stand and were voted in unanimously.

Warden's Report: Due to the senior warden, Dave Booth, not being able to attend the AGM, JK read a resume of some of the comments regarding bonfires, dens, rubbish, use of pushbikes and this year even a motorcycle. All kept in check by the eight volunteer site wardens, with special thanks to Dave Munn for his dedication and vigilance. JK concluded by reminding everyone the full report will be available on the FoLW website www.linsladewood.info

Our thanks go out to Mike Sumpter for the creation and maintenance of the website.

AOB - Nothing was raised. Victoria Harvey thanked the committee.

JC - acting chair - concluded the first half of the meeting by thanking the volunteers who turn out on Working Days and have clocked up 454 hours of activity.

An enjoyable tea-break followed during which members were able to catch up socially.

Guest Speaker: Bob Hook presented a fascinating and informative talk on swifts supported by slides and video clips. He explained the different species of swifts found around the world, their behaviour and breeding patterns but, most importantly their endangered future. Fortunately, he explained how we can help and his passion for these little birds left us all wanting to install our very own swift boxes.

If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the conservation of swifts there are many websites such as rspb.org.uk/helpswifts or if you wish to install a swift box contact Bob Hook via Judith Knight who will be happy to advise.

Meeting ends at 9.00pm