

## Minutes

FoLW AGM - Friday 8th April 2022  
7:30pm - 9:30pm  
Stockgrove Visitor Centre - entrance via Brickhill Road

The meeting started promptly at 7.30pm with 15 members present.

Apologies were received from: Clive Palmer, Rosie Palmer, Philip Braybrook, Steve Halton, Caroline Fitzpatrick, and Brenda Harvey.

Magdalena opened proceedings in lieu of Brenda Harvey (chair) by welcoming everyone, checking there were no concerns or questions regarding the summary of the lockdown AGM meeting conducted on Zoom - distributed to members via email on 26 February 2021. There were no concerns or questions so moved to hear members' reports.

**John** spoke about the work that has continued in the woods - with the appropriate covid measures. Mostly coppicing and hedge laying during most of the year with the preparation of an area called 'the scallops' "the scalloped areas" is a bit clearer prepared and planted with shrubs for the commemoration of the Queen's jubilee.

- Victoria Harvey suggested a commercial digger could be employed to scrape off the topsoil in some areas in the new wood to encourage wild flowers.

Also, the need to cut back the brambles in the old wood as they are chocking the bluebells.

**Colin** handed out a copy of the Annual accounts and talked us through the income and expenditure. In summary, the surplus brought forward year on year is growing. To date there is a total of £3,769.86 in the bank. Colin closed his report with a plea that we find some project/s that require expenditure!

- At this request one of our regular voluntary litter pickers asked if a security camera could be placed on the Stoke Road entrance to the woods prevent the increasing fly-tipping. It was clarified that the sign warning of surveillance in the area is just a deterrent. It is evident that it has little effect.
- John replied that this is the responsibility of the Council and there was some discussion about the difficulties of who or how it would be managed. No decision was taken.

**Sue** spoke about her observation regarding footfall in the woods - much increased during the the lockdown which caused some damage and extra litter. She has requested that I add to these minutes last minute information that has come in from Steve Halton:

"We have given permission to the Leighton-Linslade Wildlife Watch group to run two sessions of activities at Linslade Wood on the 23rd April and 18th June from 10 - 12. These are run by the Wildlife Trust and are fully supervised."  
We await copies of the advertising poster to distribute around Leighton Buzzard and the information boards in the woods.

**Judith** reported that there are now 60 members on her FoLW list and will be emailing the membership forms - probably attached to the minutes.

- As a wildlife observer, Judith hopes to encourage more people to report sightings of birds and also mammals. Traps for observing, not harming, small mammals are being considered but careful planning needs to be coordinated to ensure traps are checked promptly. Judith also made reference to a new concern

which has been raised by CBC the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM). CBC is currently dealing with the Council's first case of OPM at Barton Le Clay.

For your information, below is the YouTube link to recording of the webinar about Oak Processionary moth (OPM)

[Tree Health Focus 2022 Oak Processionary Moth - YouTube](#)

(First half is the most useful, talk starts about 2 mins in, life cycle etc. The pictures are good for recognition. General questions from about 28 mins in.) It is important for volunteers, contractors and the general public to be made aware of the discomfort/danger if in contact with these caterpillars.

**Magdalena**, speaking on behalf of Steve, read out his CBC report.

In summary:

- Phone masts these are now considered essential service. Therefore, phone companies no longer have to pay landowners. This represents a loss of £10K in revenue. CBC currently negotiating some minimal rental to put towards the wood.
- CBC has paid for a new interpretation board.
- Path surfacing still being considered where and if necessary.
- The Knaves Hill entrance has been rebuilt by contractors.
- The Management Plan has been updated to run until 2025.
- CBC has paid for and run First Aid and Strimmer training courses for Friends volunteers.
- Steve concludes thanking the Friends for all that they do.

**Ken** talked us through the various articles he has prepared to date for publishing in the LBO (Leighton Buzzard Observer) and Bee magazine - a process that will continue. Next on the calendar is preparing a newsletter for distribution during the Canal Festival. This led to notifying the members that this year FoLW will not have a stand, but will share the CBC stand to promote the woods by having some handouts available.

**Dave Booth** in his capacity as senior warden gave a very detailed report of activity in the woods - his full report is published on the website.

**AOB** - nothing raised

**Sue** spoke a few words of gratitude towards John who is leaving his post as Greensands Ranger and given a card signed by the committee and members. Jen was welcome as our new Ranger.

At this point the committee resigned and was re-appointed without changes.

**Guest speaker** - Chris M. Brierley, FRMetS, Professor in Climate Science, UCL spoke to the group about how forecasts for climate change are conducted. This generated some discussion and Dave Booth asked his opinion regarding the changes in temperature in the gulf stream which led to a very interesting discussion about ocean temperature and 'coral bleaching.'

The meeting closed at 9.30pm at which point we all mingled informally for refreshments, biscuits, cupcakes!