

## FoLW AGM, 18 April 2024

Minutes of the above meeting held at Rushmere Country Park.  
The meeting was attended by 17 people.

The Chair, Brenda Harvey, welcomed people to the meeting and read out apologies for absence from Magdalena and Mike Cosgrave, Caroline Fitzpatrick, Victoria Harvey, Philip Braybrook, Mike Sumpter and Sheila Meekums.

Gary Peach reported on the activities carried out in the Wood over the last year, and outlined some possible future works.

Colin Porter, Treasurer, outlined the Annual Accounts, and distributed paper copies to the attendees. The very slight loss of income this year was due to the reduced sale of stakes and binders. An application for a grant towards the cost of new finger posts has been made to the Town Council; we await a response.

Ken Barry, Publicity, reported that the article on the Friends of Linslade Wood had, disappointingly, not been printed in the *Bee Local* magazine. Gill informed the meeting that there is to be a Volunteers' Fair at All Saints Church on 8<sup>th</sup> June; this would be a good opportunity to promote the group. A stand would need to be "staffed", and an A5 newsletter to hand out will be required; Gary has subsequently produced a summary of his report on the year's activities with photographs. It was suggested that printing might be done at Eagle Graphics, a local company used by two attendees. We also now have two updated leaflets, kindly produced by John Trotman. The wardens may find it useful to have some as they go about their duties in the wood.

Mike Sumpter, Website manager, who was unable to attend, had produced a sheet showing the use of the website over the last few months. There have been 125 clicks on the website from the beginning of January to the end of March. It was suggested that the map of the Wood on the website needs updating.

Judith Knight, Membership sec. There are 63 people on the mailing list, a mixture of 25 paid-up members 4 honorary life members, and volunteers. A membership renewal form for 2024/5 will be sent to all of them shortly, volunteers and members. The volunteers "pay" with their time and enthusiasm too. It was agreed that the membership fees should remain the same in the forthcoming year.

There are many more records of wildlife sightings coming in now – many from the wardens. There is no news on the Peabody proposed development. The sale of the "pony field" is under offer – we await an outcome.

Dave Booth, Chief Site Warden, gave an informative summary of the year's activity, including an impressive number of volunteer warden hours.

The Committee. There was general agreement that the current committee should continue, though there is always room for "new blood". The wardens will now automatically be invited to attend future committee meetings.

Brenda closed the meeting, and the speaker, Rory Morrissey, gave a very interesting – and entertaining – talk on “Bug Life”, with plenty of illustrations of creatures we might expect to see in the Wood – and some we almost certainly shan’t see. A good way to end the evening.

### **Facebook Page Report by Philip Braybrook**

Here’s my summary of Facebook for the last year, April 23 to March 24.

There were 60 posts, 55 (92%) generated by FoLW members and 5 shared from other sites (Greensands/Rushmere/Council etc)

Typically, each post is seen by around 100 people, with a spread of 145 to 42. They gain an average of 10 likes, with a maximum of 36 and a low of 0.

26 (43%) posts gained comments, overwhelmingly positive and complementary.

27 (45%) posts were shared to other Facebook pages. I can’t see where they are shared to or who shares them, but it can only be positive.

As I have previously reported, we could do with a few more content providers, I am happy to post this if people do not like to see their name out there. Just send me some content and I’ll happily do the rest.

If everyone agrees, I would be happy to do a monthly post about something on the Website, with a link. This would hopefully increase traffic and interest. Also a direct link to the Facebook page on the Website home page would be good if that could be arranged. (There is a note about Facebook but it doesn’t link directly through).

Happy to receive any other feedback or ideas.