

Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to improve our wood



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Forum, Forestdale at 8pm on 6th January 2014

PRESENT - Officers : Heather Govier (Chair), Ted Forsyth (Vice Chair), Linda Morris (Secretary), Sandra Crapper (Treasurer),

Committee: Neale Fox, David Malins, Janet Nightingale, Sara Bashford, Dawn Gibbons, John and Janet Bickerstaff.

Other Friends present: Tony Flecchia, Frank and Julia Kippin, Liz Phillips and Richard Lock.

1. **Apologies for absence** - None

2. **Minutes of AGM – 7th January 2013** – Agreed

3. **Election of FSW Officers (and management committee)**

The Chairman reported that she understood all the present officers were willing to continue in post for the coming year (including Ted Forsyth who had kindly taken over from Rob Turley as Vice Chairman when he had moved from Selsdon recently). All were therefore unanimously elected by those present.

Heather explained to Friends attending for the first time that there was a de facto committee which was composed of those who attended work days regularly and who also came routinely to the monthly meetings. The required quorum for any decisions would be taken from the attending Officers and this core group which was in effect 'the committee' mentioned in the constitution. However, all Friends were welcome to the meetings and could join in without being formally elected to the group. This informality was working well.

Heather thanked the officers and 'committee' for their support and hard work during the year and looked forward to continuing to work with them in 2014.

John Bickerstaff proposed a vote of thanks for Heather and her time spent on FSW matters. This was unanimously supported by all present.

4. **Report from the Chair**

Heather had already circulated her annual report (appended) and this was also available on the website. She outlined various elements of FSW work during the year and thanked the Council, through Sara Bashford, for their support and action in dealing with matters beyond FSW resources.

Dawn suggested that Ted should forward his survey findings to Meike as she thought she had found such information useful in the past.

5. **Treasurer's report – Approval of 2013 accounts**

Sandra Crapper presented the accounts (appended) and her report for the FSW finances for 2013. The accounts had been independently scrutinised by Alan Williams and FSW thanks for his time doing this was recorded.

Sandra was pleased to report FSW had a credit balance of £822, mainly resulting from increased membership, various grants and the donations received for calendars and logs. She anticipated that the finances of FSW should remain in this healthy situation as long as we continued to receive this income and maintained careful management of our expenditure. There would possibly be some increased essential expenditure in 2014 as FSW had lost the free printing of the information leaflets which Rob Turley had obtained for us from his employer. She planned to continue to deal with the Gift Aid applications and pursue enquiries to obtain funding from alternative sources in 2014. She would be liaising with Meike about this.

Sandra was thanked for her excellent work in maintaining the financial records and the accounts were unanimously approved.

6. **Review of annual membership fee**

It was agreed there was no present need to raise the subscription fee in 2015. It would therefore remain at the 2014 rate of £5.

7. **Any other business**

Date of AGM – Heather proposed that the AGM be held at a time of year when it should be more encouraging for Friends to come out in the evenings. It was agreed therefore that, in future, the AGM should be held on the first Monday of March. **The next AGM would therefore be on 2nd March 2015.**

Improving paths in the Wood – Linda reported that she had been asked by a local resident if consideration could be made to establishing a tarmac path to facilitate access by pushchairs and disabled people. The meeting's initial reaction was that this was probably not appropriate because this was a natural woodland setting and not a park or recreational area. However, it was agreed this suggestion should be borne in mind in future discussions at meetings when it was proposed to review the state of all paths in the wood and determine the best action to take to maintain them in the best possible condition within the limits of finances and labour available.

Dogs – Frank Kippin asked whether it would be possible to install more dog-poo bins. The Friends have asked Croydon Council about this in the past and been told that this would not be possible as finance is not available to maintain them. However, there has been one new bin this year (at the Courtwood Lane gate). The Friends will continue to ask for more bins should the finance allow.

Damage to Farleigh Border fence and gate – Frank Kippin drew our attention to the damage to this fence and gate which is a serious problem as dogs can easily get out onto the busy road endangering dogs and all road users. The Friends will draw the Council's attention to this.