

Friends of Selsdon Wood (FSW)

Working to conserve our wood



Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Friends of Selsdon Wood held on Monday 31st March 2025 at 8pm at the Forestdale Forum.

Present: Heather Govier, in the Chair, Ted Forsyth (Vice Chair), Linda Morris (Secretary) and Karen Hall (Treasurer). Other Friends attending were Valerie Baldry, David Debenham, Jim Dunning, Neale Fox, Frank Kippin.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved. There were no matters arising.
3. Election of officers – all were willing to continue in post, were not opposed and so were duly re-elected by those present for a further year. Heather thanked them all for their work during the year and Linda offered, on behalf of all the Friends, thanks to Heather for her leadership and drive to keep the FSW going so well.
4. Annual Report – Heather presented the annual report which she had circulated prior to the meeting and will be placing on the FSW website. She paid especial thanks to those who had led the various projects and activities during the year as well as thanking all the other Friends who helped and supported the main work team.
5. Financial Report – Karen presented the annual accounts and tabled thanks to Alan Williams for acting as the accounts' reviewer once again. Subscribed membership numbers have declined slightly so it was agreed that she should write to those who had not renewed – some for some years, despite still being emailed the newsletter by Heather – to request their sub, at least for 2025.

It was agreed unanimously that the annual household subscription should remain £5.

6. AOB – a. Frank Kippin raised the potential problem of drug taking in the wood, judging by the type of litter found e.g. canisters and cannabis wrappers etc. It was not thought this was a large-scale problem, but Linda agreed to raise it with the local police at the next ward panel meeting and suggest they at least include the car park in their evening tours around the area.

b. Liaison with Elm Farm – following the retirement of David Marsden, the farm has been leased to Surrey Wildlife Trust for 35 years and is currently being managed by Scott Woods. He has large scale plans for re-wilding the pasture for sheep and cattle and to carry out soil and ecology surveys to facilitate diversity planning and general conservation of the area. Linda and Heather had invited him to this meeting, but he was not able to attend and there is little more he could tell us at present. He will meet with local groups once the plans and environment have become more established and there is more to tell them about.

There being no other business, the AGM closed at 20.40 and was immediately followed by an ordinary Committee Meeting.