



FRIENDS OF SELSDON WOODS

Minutes of Meeting held at The Forestdale Forum
on **Monday 5th January 2009** at 8.00 pm

PRESENT

Dawn Gibbons (Chair)	Ted Forsyth
Linda Morris (Secretary)	Sara Bashford
Elizabeth (Liz) Phillips (Treasurer)	Janet Nightingale
Rob Turley	David Malins
Gordon Endersby	Stephen Saunders
	John and Janet Bickerstaff

1. **Apologies for absence** from Heather Govier, Ernie Thomason and Alan Chambers were noted.

Dawn welcomed John and Janet Bickerstaff to the group and thanked Janet for the donation of her OU project paper (and photographs) on the history of the Wood to the Group's archives.

2. **Chairman's Report 2008** - Dawn reviewed the activities of the group and presented the attached report. It was agreed that the group had had a very successful first year and thanks was noted to those who had taken on specific responsibilities within the group.

3. **Treasurer's Report 2008** - Liz presented the balance sheet pertaining to the accounts for the first year and confirmed the group currently had 24 paid-up members and a credit balance of over £100.

The accounts, as presented, were approved as the balance was correct. However, Liz was asked to re-present the accounts, with Dawn's assistance, so that it could be seen more clearly how the various grants had been spent. It was agreed that the amended version should be attached to these minutes. Unfortunately, Liz had very little time to prepare the final accounts as she had only returned home the day before the AGM, after an absence of 4 weeks due to her father being in hospital.

4. **Election of Officers**

In the absence of any other nominations or volunteers, the existing officers were re-elected unanimously as follows:

Chairman – Dawn Gibbons
Treasurer – Liz Williamson
Secretary – Linda Morris

The role of Rob Turley as nominated vice-chairman was confirmed by all present.

It was agreed that the other responsibilities would be shared amongst the members on an adhoc basis e.g. Gordon was now de facto Tools Officer and David Malins had been leaflet editor.

5. **Review of subscription**

There was some discussion as to how the extra costs incurred in distributing meeting papers etc to those few members who did not have email could best be met as it was realised that these could become a drain on the finances when taking into account post and the cost of

paper and ink e.g. 4 pages per meeting (agenda and minutes) @ 10p per page x 10 meetings per year = £4 plus extra items such as the newsletter, notices about work days etc.

It was agreed that the basic subscription should remain at £5 (per family/household) but that those without email should be charged an additional £5 (from now) if they wished to have hard copies sent to them. Alternatively, if they did not have personal access to a computer or email, they could set up an email account via the public computers in the library (or an internet café) and pay for copies to be printed there as required.

6. Proposed 2009 events

a. Unfortunately it has not been possible for Ernie to arrange guided walks this year but the group felt it was important that some are held. It was therefore agreed that the Group would hold a **Bluebell walk on 26th April**, possibly lead by Dawn, David, Linda and Ted, depending on numbers attending.

b. It was agreed that **work days** should generally continue on the first Sundays of the month from about 10.30 -2.30pm. The next two would be on **1st February** (coppicing) and **1st March** (to complete work started in the Jubilee plantation).

Steven Saunders would also lead an additional coppicing day on **24th January** and he would try to contact BTCV about this and the 1st February date.

It was also thought it would be beneficial from a PR point of view if there was some work activity happening on the Bluebell walk day (**26th April**) too. This would probably replace the work day due to fall on the following early May bank holiday weekend.

c. It was agreed we should probably proceed with the planning for another **Open Day** as other groups had already shown interest in this and Sara Bashford indicated that it was unlikely that the Croydon Country Show would not take place again this year. It was likely the date for the Open day would again be the instead of the September work day i.e. on the **6th**.

7. Any other business

a. Shelter - Gordon raised the state of the fire-damaged shelter and asked if pressure could be brought to bear on the council to repair this, or at least to remove the damaged structure. Sara agreed to write to the appropriate council officer about this.

b. Bird boxes – David reported he had some boxes to install but was concerned about how this might be done as the owl box was rather heavy. It was agreed we should enquire of Ernie / the council, if they could put them up. Alternatively some members might be able to manage them or we could ask a group such as the local Venture unit to help. It was agreed that David and Ted should decide the locations for these.