

Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to conserve our wood



Minutes of AGM held at 7.45pm on 30th March 2026 @ Forestdale Forum

Present: Ted Forsyth (VC, initially in the Chair), Linda Morris (Secretary), Karen Hall (Treasurer), David Debenham, Jim Dunning, Valerie Baldry, Neale Fox, John Zareba. Fred Jacques (subscribed Friend) was also present.

- 1. Apologies for absence: Committee** - Heather Govier (recently resigned), John Bickerstaff (assumed apologies as previously advised he was generally unable to attend meetings).
Friends – Paola Bagnall, Bryan Sparshot, Tracy Oko, Margaret Rick and Kay Ellis.
- 2. Election of Chair:** The Friends had received the news of Heather's resignation due to ill health with sadness and asked that their thanks for her past work in the role be recorded.

Ted took the Chair and nominated David Debenham as the new Chair. There were no other candidates. He was unanimously elected and then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

- 3 Election of Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and the remaining committee** – All current officers and those committee present indicated they were willing to continue. It was agreed unanimously by the vote of those present - even though sadly, this included only one Friend in addition to the existing committee - that the new committee should be:

David D – Chair Ted F – Vice Chair
Linda M – Secretary Karen H – Treasurer
Valerie B, Jim D, Neale Fox, John Z

In view of John Bickerstaff's problems in attending recent meetings and as he had not confirmed his willingness to stand for re-election, it was felt more appropriate to simply retain his services as the committee's insurance reviewer when necessary.

- 4. Minutes of AGM 2025 and matters arising** – The minutes were agreed and the matters that arose were covered in the topics below and in the course of the following committee meeting to which Fred was invited to stay and contribute as a non-voting member.
- 5. Chair's Annual report 2025 (attached)** - The committee were pleased to note Heather's final report and thanked her for this.
- 6. Accounts and financial report 2025 (attached)** – Karen thanked Alan Williams for reviewing the accounts in time for her to circulate them prior to the meeting. The committee thanked Karen for her accurate accounts showing a final credit balance for the year of £5682 and the constant attention to detail in her records etc.

It was noted that the suggested donation for 2025 from John B had not been received. David agreed to raise this with him and to point out the benefit of part of his donation being paid in one year and then the rest in a subsequent year so the FSW were not seen to have a relatively large donation from one person in a single year.

- 7. Any other business** – there was none that would not be discussed at the following meeting.
- 8. The date of the next AGM was set for 22nd March 2027 (again @ 7.45pm)**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.