

Friends of Selsdon Wood

Working to improve our wood



Minutes of the AGM held at Forum, Forestdale at 8pm on 7th January 2013

PRESENT: Committee – Heather Govier (Chairman), Rob Turley (Vice Chairman), Sandra Crapper (Treasurer), Linda Morris (Secretary), Dawn Gibbons, Ted Forsyth, David Malins, Janet Nightingale, Sara Bashford, and John Bickerstaff. Also present were Allen Bushnell, John Zareba, Neale Fox, Karen and David Bransom, Richard Lock, Jane England and Don Stubbs.

Apologies for absence were noted from, Janet Bickerstaff, Liz Phillips, David Nicholson, Susanne Million and Sid Potter.

Minutes of AGM held on 9th January 2012 – Agreed

Election of Officers and Management Committee – No-one had indicated they wished to step down from their roles so all were unanimously reappointed.

Chairman's Annual Report – tabled (as attached) and unanimously adopted. Heather made specific mention of a few topics at the meeting:

- a. Broken fence – She thanked John Bickerstaff for his perseverance in chasing this. It was hoped the repair would be completed soon
- b. Toilets – it was suggested that perhaps the toilets could be cleaned and decorated within the Community Pay-Back scheme. Heather agreed to investigate this.
- c. Charcoal – It was hoped the planned event in late May would proceed but confirmation of Rob Sowter's attendance was awaited.
- d. Heather thanked all those who had been involved with leading or assisting on the walks and for preparing the newsletters and articles. She had maintained links with Greenvale and Courtwood Schools and hoped these would continue.
- e. Website – Heather was thanked for her hard work in developing and maintaining the website
- f. Heather referred to the success of the Open Day and thanked all those who helped Linda make it a worthwhile event
- g. The Friends committee was pleased with the amounts raised through donations for calendars and logs. Heather thanked Neale and Karen Fox for their hard work in preparing the logs for sale and managing this activity.
- h. Heather thanked Cecile Griggs for her diligent research, which had resulted in the discovery of more of the history of the old Bird Pool and the wood's association with Col.Wood.

Sara expressed thanks on behalf of all the Friends for the work done by Heather and the committee and helpers throughout the year.

Treasurer's report and accounts – tabled (as attached and unanimously adopted). Sandra was thanked for becoming Treasurer following the last AGM and for keeping the accounts in good order. She was grateful for the independent scrutiny of the accounts by Alan Williams.

Annual Membership fee – It was agreed unanimously that the fee should be maintained at £5 per household as this, often with an additional donation, seemed to be bringing in sufficient income to maintain the planned programme of work and publicity.

Any other business

- a. **Geo-caching** was mentioned by Neale Fox as a possible new activity. He thought it might encourage more family visits to the wood. He presented a computer demonstration of an app showing what he envisaged. It was agreed that he should consider how this might best be taken

forward. It was suggested that perhaps Meike or ACCS might wish to be involved if the activity was to be introduced in other Croydon open spaces too.

- b. **Work days** – It was noted that not all Friends could attend work sessions or walks on Sunday mornings. This was accepted but it was realised there could regrettably be no day suitable for all. Walks were programmed for Saturdays and Sundays and occasionally in the week or on summer evenings. It was hoped that perhaps more of these could be arranged, weather and leaders permitting to facilitate wider participation.
- c. **Surveys** – It was suggested that those who cannot attend work sessions might like to help with surveys of flora and butterflies etc. when they walked in the woods.
- d. **Dogs** – It was noted that some dogs had not been well-controlled by their walkers in the wood and this could have been the reason deer had been attacked and chased recently. It was agreed mention should be made of this in our publicity.
- e. **Information leaflets** – The Vice Chairman was asked to relay the Friends' appreciation of the generosity of the Frankham Consultancy Group in printing additional copies of the leaflet.

The meeting closed at 9pm when those present then reviewed an excellent display of photographs taken in the wood in the last few years.