

## Minutes of the AGM of the Friends of Selsdon Wood held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 8pm in the Forestdale Forum.

**Present:** Heather Govier (in the Chair), Ted Forsyth (Vice Chair), Linda Morris (Secretary), Karen Hall (Treasurer), John Bickerstaff, Jim Dunning, Neale Fox, Valerie Baldry, John Zareba, David Debenham.

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Christian Kuepers and Sandra Crapper.

**Minutes of the last AGM** held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were considered and approved as a correct record of that meeting.

**Matters Arising** – Heather noted that it was at this meeting that Chris Green was introduced by Steve Budd as the person who was willing to help him and Ruth with the DMBFS and the FB page now and after they moved away from the area.

She also thanked the only volunteer who had responded to her request on FB for help with emptying the dog waste bin: Andy Campbell has agreed to empty the bin at the top of Field 1 on Fridays.

Shredding documents: Heather asked for a volunteer to deal with the shredding of documents (currently stored in the 'museum') more than 6 years old as she did not have a shredder. Linda suggested that some papers could go into the paper recycling without shredding and only those parts with names and addresses, account details and other personal data need to be shredded to comply with GDPR. She has a shredder and will do the job if no one else offers.

**Election of Management Committee and Officers** – All four officers indicated they were willing to continue in post and so they were unanimously re-elected.

Turning to the election of the rest of the committee, Linda then reported a conversation that she had had with Valerie just prior to the meeting to explain to her that FSW management committee was considered to be the four officers plus anyone who was directly involved in the work of FSW who wished to attend committee meetings. There was therefore no actual nomination of anyone who wanted to join the committee other than for the Officer posts and that the meetings are advertised as being open to all Friends. It was by virtue of this that Valerie was welcome to stay for the committee meeting after the AGM. Linda also explained that there were times when the officers and key workers in FSW projects and plans took delegated decisions outside the committee meetings if time was critical – including others in the plans and decisions by email, when possible. Linda asked that this be approved by the meeting now and thus recorded in the minutes for future reference. This was agreed.

**Report from the Chair** – This had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved following Heather’s highlighting of some specific points. Mainly, they were thanks to those who had helped FSW during the year: the secretary, Linda and treasurer, Karen; the GrowWild volunteers; Jim for his work as the seats and benches manager (and his other carpentry contributions e.g. wooden leaflet dispenser and bird boxes); Chris, Ruth and Steve for their work supplying the seed for DMBFS and dealing with damage there when necessary; our walks leaders including the external volunteers who help with these; Louise Green for volunteering website advice (some already implemented and some still under consideration); Steve and Chris for their work on managing FB; and Linda and the team of helpers (not all FSW people) for helping to make the Open Day a success.

The current Carvings Project is proving very popular, and thanks were given to Alasdair Craig, the carver and to Jim for organising things.

The report was accepted by the committee who also gave a vote of thanks to Heather for her work in keeping the whole group going for another year.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Karen had circulated the annual accounts which had been reviewed independently by Alan Williams. Once again, it had been a good year financially, especially as it turned out the whole cost of the new pool liner was covered by the lottery grant and not just 60% of it as was envisaged. The year ended with there being a healthy balance in the bank to enable FSW to continue with the Linden Glade, Muddy Paths, and Wood Carvings projects.

**Review of Membership Arrangements** - It was unanimously agreed that the annual subscription should remain at £5, still being collected by bank transfer, cash, or payments at the Open Day etc.

**Any other business** – There was none specific to the AGM, so this meeting closed at 8.25pm