



# The Friends of King's Wood

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held 7pm 11 May 2009

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### Present

Diana Sawyer (DS)  
Mick Hughes (MH)  
Sophie Walkden (SW)  
Simon Cavell (SC)  
Helen Cavell (HC)  
Jon Shelton (JS)  
Dan (SVA)

### Apologies

Gaynor O'Connell (GO)  
Peter Walkden (PW)  
Dan Jennings (DJ)

### Minutes

a) **Accuracy**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2009 were accepted.

b) **Matters arising**

DS: Renewal letter was prepared and sent to SC for renewal print run  
SC: Renewal letters generated, printed and posted  
SC: KSCP name change reflected on the website  
HC: Unable to find copies of the Church Hill Walk leaflet locally  
LM: DS discussed replacing the notice board during the Chairman's report

### Agenda

a) **Chairman's Report**

DS thanked the committee for their efforts in getting the renewal letters out and thanked HC for her hospitality at the envelope stuffing evening.

DS reported on the success of the Bluebell walks with in excess of 40 walkers attending the Sunday walk. DS suggested that new walk routes be introduced in 2010.



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DS advised that a replacement notice board could be incorporated into the Walk Map grant application or funded by a separate and smaller grant application.

Whilst attention is currently focussed on the 2009 grant application, DS asked the committee to start thinking about the future direction of Friends and where we might like to go next.

Following the discovery of newts and tadpoles at the Super Kingdom Pond, DS suggested the introduction of a pond survey. Wendy Hogg has offered to organise pond surveys in 2010. It was suggested that PW or Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG) may be able to lead a 2009 survey.

With the 2009 Walks and Event leaflets quickly disappearing from several locations, DS suggested that we conduct a cost effectiveness exercise and decide whether there is any benefit to paying for a reprint.

DS asked if anyone had a gazebo that Friends could borrow for the Challock Goose Fair. MH and SVA offered to help. SVA have various sizes available.

DS may be able to organise a walk for Cub Scouts to generate some income. Matt Care has offered to lead a walk if a committee member assists. MH, SC and HC offered to assist with such a walk.

## **b) Treasurer's report (SW)**

The latest bank statement shows a balance of £1470 on 9 April. Allowing for income and expenditure since, we now have a balance of £1644.

Income from memberships and walks for the year to date currently stands at £431 (2008: £481).

Our next main item of expenditure is the renewal of the public liability insurance at the end of May which is likely to cost around £200. In addition, we have yet to pay KSCP up to £900 by way of the Friend's contribution to the new pond in Cutler's Valley. This should complete our main expenditure and standard running costs for this year. The Committee may like to consider how we utilise the remaining balance plus any grant income we may be able to obtain

Forthcoming expenses:

May	Public liability insurance	£200 (approx)
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TBC (JS) Pond

£900

## c) Membership report

SC reported that the current membership stands at 60 (104 members). There are 34 membership renewals outstanding. There have been 11 new memberships started during 2009.

SC gave SW £40 in membership receipts.

## d) Stour Valley Arts

Dan distributed a list of forthcoming events and explained the format of each. Times will be confirmed nearer the time and mail shots will contain further details of each event. Details can also be found on the diary page of the SVA website.

SVA recently appeared on an episode of the BBC's Inside-Out show and the Ring sculpture will be featured in a future episode of Channel 4's show The Big Art Project.

## e) Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership Update

JS read out the press release that he plans to distribute to the Ashford and Canterbury Kent Messenger tomorrow.

JS suggested planting up the Cutler's Valley Pond as an event. KSCP would make a contribution toward the cost of plants.

JS will agree details/dates for the proposed Bird/Bat box Building practical event with Debbie Adams and report back to the committee

## f) Forestry Commission Update

*(DJ was unable to attend the meeting)*

## g) Walks and Events

DS has booked a table for 6 at The Halfway House for the Bat Walk (6:30pm). DS has emailed Matt Care about a similar arrangement for the Nightjar walk.

HC suggested awarding Honorary Membership to walk leads.

The committee members who will attend the following walks/events are:



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Mini Beasts	24 May	DS SW
Bat Walk	30 May	DS SW MH
Nightjars	10 June	DS SW MH SC HC

## h) Forthcoming items

### Grant Application

It was proposed that a meeting be held at the KSCP office on Thursday 28 May (time TBC) in order to progress the grant application. DS, SW and JS will attend.

## AOB

- HC suggested the creation of a Friends poster and may have a contact who can help with the design. JS suggested keeping the design generic so that it can be overlaid with details of the next event.
- JS is leading a walk with Kent Wildlife Trust on 18 July and asked Dan whether this would clash with SVA's "Pulse" event. Dan didn't believe there would be any problem.

## Actions

JS: Email a copy of the Risk Assessment form to SC

JS: Email a copy of the Press Release to SC

DS: Confirm availability for meeting at KSCP on Thu 28 May

DS: Research cost of replacement notice board

DS: Book a table at The Halfway House at 7pm for the Nightjar Walk

SW: Speak to KRAG and PW about possible pond surveys in 2009

SC: Add Cutler Valley pond photos to the website

## Next meeting

Monday 8 June 2009, 7pm.