

Friends of Kings Wood

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on Monday 15 September 2008, 7 p.m.

Present; Diana Sawyer (DS)
Jon Shelton (JS)
Sophie Walkden (SW)
Wendy Hogg (WH)
Peter Walkden (PW)

Apologies for absence; Rona Doyle (RD), Alan Burton (AB), Dan Jennings (DJ) and Mick Sherwood (MS)

Action

1. The **Minutes** of the previous meeting held on 11 August were approved as correct and there were no matters arising other than those already on the agenda.

2. Constitution – RD had e-mailed a revised version of the constitution for consideration earlier in the day and it was decided to postpone finalising this until the committee had read the revised version – could all committee members please look at this and have comments ready for next month's meeting.

ALL

3. Committee members – RD and AB have advised that they will not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming AGM.

4. [Not for publication]

5. Cutlers Valley pond – JS advised that Viridor, the waste management company, have kindly agreed to fund a new pond in Cutler's Valley subject to a contribution of a maximum of £1000 from the Friends of Kings Wood; that had been previously agreed and the commitment would be honoured by the current committee. The total cost of the project will be a maximum of £6140. The contractor will be carrying out the work at the end of October. DS asked whether planning permission will be required but JS advised that the Forestry Commission said this is not necessary. JS offered to provide a copy of his application to Viridor.

JS

6. Grants / Wish List

(a) **Communication** – DS advised that Simon Cavell has offered to help with setting up a group e-mail to all members (so that individual e-mail addresses are hidden). This will enable the sending of AGM papers, newsletters and other information in the future. Simon has also reactivated the website and minutes etc can be posted on there as required.

(b) **Events/Activities 2009** – various ideas were discussed including a tree walk, ideas for winter activities, a pub walk, for example from

the George at Molash, ending with a pub lunch and progressing walks leaflets. JS enquired about the group applying for grants and DS responded that this was on hold for the time being but not forgotten. DS

(c) Repairs – Stour Valley Arts had enquired about the repair of the notice board and the group discussed ways of strengthening this in the future. JS advised that the interpretive board had also been vandalised and was being repaired.

(d) New structures – various ideas were discussed including signs for pub walks, bird/bat/dormouse boxes and the possibility of the Forestry Commission recycling some of their seats.

(e) Harvesting the forest – the group received a written report from Steve McCarthy of the Forestry Commission highlighting an improved market for chestnut and the possibility of using wood chip for fuel. Both will help with maintaining coppiced areas. Ride cutting will help with wildlife habitats.

7. AGM – DS outlined the papers that would be required including the Chairman’s report, the Treasurer’s report and the Auditor’s report. It was agreed that the speaker should be given the opportunity to either speak first or arrive after the AGM. DS/AB/SW

8. Risk Assessment / Accident book – PW is to attend a ‘Leading Walks Safely’ course being run by the BTCV. JS agreed to e-mail a copy of a risk assessment form to DS. DS to try to obtain a pro forma for an incident report. The group also agreed that a first aid kit should be purchased to take on walks. JS DS WH/DS/SW

9. Treasurer’s report – AB had advised that he would be attending the October meeting so this item was deferred until then. AB

10. Any other business – DS reported back on a successful bat walk when 26 people attended. Also a successful stall had been manned at the Challock Goose Fair thanks to Mick, Pam and Ron Cadenhead and DS.

JS produced a record of the different species seen on the butterfly walk.

WH advised she will be attending a course on Monday nights and will only be able to attend committee meetings occasionally for the time being.

11. Next meeting – 13 October 2008
The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.