

**MINUTES OF THE 2017 FRIENDS OF COLLIERS WOOD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT GREASLEY SPORTS & COMMUNITY HALL ON WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL 2017**

TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS PRESENT: M Turner (Chair); M Fletcher (Treasurer); A Cooke (Membership Secretary); G Caldwell (Facilities Officer); A Fergus (Marketing); R Turner (Secretary); M Sutcliffe, J Smith, D Hill; H Haggis

The Trustees and Members being present, the Chair opened the meeting at 19.15hrs.

Margaret Turner confirmed that the meeting was the Group's annual general meeting for the period 1.4.16 to 31.3.17 held in accordance with the Constitution. Appropriate notice had been given.

1 Minutes of the 2016 AGM

No comments had been received regarding the 2016 AGM circulated minutes dated 13.4.16 and none were offered at the meeting.

Those minutes were **Accepted** as a true record.

2 Presentation of Accounts

The accounts for the twelve months from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 have been audited by McLoughlin Accountancy. The Treasurer reported on the key points of the accounts. Both overall income and expenditure increased but a surplus was achieved. Madeleine drew attention to the additional sheet detailing finances associated with all areas of interest to FoCW.

The trustees and members present **Accepted** the accounts.

3 Report of the Committee of Officers

Halo pruning of the DH Lawrence Copse is substantially completed. The beneficial effect of the exercise in opening up the canopy around the selected trees is already becoming apparent. The remaining trees desperately need thinning. This will hopefully commence in the 2017-18 dormant period. Invasive species is an expanding problem in this copse and elsewhere.

Greenwood and Notts. Wildlife Trust working together recently produced a report analysing the site woodland areas and meadow fringes. This document offers solutions to several of the sites habitat challenges and guidance on enhancing other habitat areas for long term benefit.

Further memorial plantings were completed. Pruning and thinning works to the Waterloo Memorial Copse must also commence next winter if we are to achieve a balance of well formed trees of different species.

The Central Meadow annual cut areas have been seeded with the semi-parasitic yellow rattle to limit the growth of many of the (stronger) grass species and thus improve growth conditions for wildflowers.

Access holes allowing hedgehogs to pass under the copse fencing have been created. This work will continue. It is aimed at encouraging hedgehogs to inhabit suitable copses. There are presently no known sightings of hedgehogs actually on the site.

The waterfowl population on the Large Pond is significantly increased and has been augmented by swans being regularly present. Predation was higher in 2016 than in previous years.

This pond is overstocked with fish. This is very convenient for the herons but disastrous for the insect population and pond life.

Supplementary bird feeding continues to be well supported by visitors. At the viewing area this food source has attracted rats. They are present during daylight hours and scale the trees to reach the feeders. It is believed that their main nesting area is in the adjacent fields that contain a perennial crop that does not require ploughing; an activity that would normally destroy burrows. Actions to minimise food spillage from feeders has been taken and methods to make access to feeders more difficult are

being considered. Feeders at the main feed area have been removed and will not be replaced until rats are no longer attracted to the area.

The introduction of recycled plastic seating as replacement for the decayed original timber seats has been very successful. They are comfortable, warm and higher than some of the removed seats. Replacement of the picnic benches will utilise the same materials.

The return of the Rain or Shine Company production was much appreciated

A second year of the reintroduced Colliers Wood Proms was very successful.

Broxtowe Sports duathlon and buggy walks continue to be successful. Kimberley and District Striders monthly Canter continues to provide regular running exercise opportunity. Greasley Community and Sports Hall team had a good Sports Relief Mile event. We hope they will continue to use the site.

Our third scarecrow display did not attract sufficient participants for the event to continue.

Our other events had mixed results. Friends are reviewing formats, presentation and dates of events with the aim of stimulating participation.

The trustees and members present **Accepted** the report.

4 Group Chair's Report

Friends have concentrated a lot of effort this year on the preparation of a funding bid to WREN for the Colliers Wood Activity Space project. A gathering and work area that is aimed at expanding the range of regular activities at the site in order to attract visitors with different leisure interests.

Caunton Engineering very generously volunteered to help the Friends. They have taken on the responsibility for the segments of the winding wheel that will feature as a landmark and display structure for creative works. This includes shot-blasting, refurbishments, repairs, new fixings, a full paint finish- in the South Notts. colour- and the then transportation and erection of the segments onto the prepared bases.

Friends have canvassed support from the community for the project, informing and explaining the scheme and its purpose. This public consultation has helped shape the final design specifications. We have been encouraged by the high level of public support expressed.

With considerable help from Broxtowe, we hope to submit the bid in May.

We failed to secure a grant from Notts. CC arts fund. The preparation work may aid the development of programs for the CWAS facility.

Management planning activity is underway for the Wetland copse. This may result in major changes to avoid heavy pruning- which is presently necessary to avoid interference with the overhead power transmission cables- involving some replacement of existing species with more appropriate vegetation and introducing coppicing.

It is intended that this will create another habitat variation for the site and will avoid excessive labour input to maintain.

First stage tree management work is largely complete in the DH Lawrence Copse. Standard thinning activity will follow on over the next few years.

Following a Forestry Commission task group visit to the site, researching information for urban forest advice, Greenwood and Notts Wildlife Group have prepared suggestions for the woodland management of Colliers Wood. FoCW are grateful for their considered opinions.

Friends are reviewing our public events. This will lead to modifications of their format and presentation. We have already changed the nature of the Colliers Wood attraction for the Greasley Gathering participants.

Broxtowe's Events team successfully reintroduced the RoSTC July theatre production and again held a 'Colliers Wood Proms'. Both had good public support.

The re-organisation of the event group into the stand-alone, but wholly owned, Liberty Leisure Ltd is not intended to have a negative impact upon the Broxtowe events organised for the site. FoCW hope that In future years they may even introduce further commercial events.

As predicted last year, fund raising has become more difficult. Morrisons can no longer allow us to sell our lottery tickets at their store; an activity that constituted a major part of our income. We thank Morrisons and their staff for the support that they have given us for many years. We will still be able to seeking donations from Morrisons customers.

Tesco Express continues with their support and FoCW are exploring other opportunities.

A planning application has been submitted for the permanent retention of our storage container. We wish to avoid the cost and hassle necessary for the repetitive 5 year applications.

The change of our monthly meeting place to the committee room at the Greasley Sports and Community Centre has worked well. Greasley Parish Council has generously supported us by paying the room fee.

I thank all of the Friends and members of the public who have helped the group to achieve our aims. Uncertainty and modifications may be distracting, but we should recognise and be proud of the progress achieved in this last year.

The trustees and members present **Accepted** the report.

5 Election of Trustees

Chair and existing trustees resigned.

MargaretT was nominated for Chair by MargaretS and seconded by Janice. No other nominations received or offered. Meeting re-elected Margaret Turner as Chair.

Madeleine was nominated for Treasurer by Anne and seconded by Geoff. No other nominations received or offered. Meeting re-elected Madeleine Fletcher as Treasurer.

Bob was nominated for Secretary by Geoff and seconded by Madeleine. No other nominations received or offered. Meeting re-elected Bob Turner as Secretary.

Anne was nominated for Membership Secretary by MargaretT and seconded by Madeleine. No other nominations received or offered. Meeting re-elected Anne Cooke as Membership Secretary.

Aileen declined to re-stand for Marketing Officer. As no nominations received or offered, the position stands vacant.

Geoff was nominated for Facilities Officer by MargaretT and seconded by MargaretS. No other nominations received or offered. Meeting re-elected Geoffrey Caldwell as Facilities Officer.

6 Appointment of Auditor

It was PROPOSED and ACCEPTED that McLoughlin Accountancy be appointed auditors for the account period 2016-17.

7 Any Other Business

No items advised to Secretary by 23rd March. No applicable business raised at the meeting.

8 2018 AGM

The date for the 2017/18 year AGM was set as 11th April 2018. Venue to be confirmed.

There being no further business to conduct the Chair closed the meeting at 19.35.