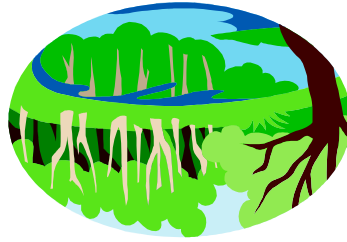


# Moor Pond Wood Project, Papplewick



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 'FRIENDS OF MOOR POND WOOD' HELD ON FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2003 AT PAPPLEWICK VILLAGE HALL**

### **In attendance:**

Mrs M Barker (Papplewick Parish Council RFO)	Mr K Morton
Mr T Barker	Mrs P Morton
Mr D Bodey (1803 Hucknall Air Training Corps)	Mrs M Passey
Mr G Collis	Mr R Preston
Mr I Griffiths (Chairman Papplewick Parish Council)	Mrs V Preston
Mrs M Hull (Treasurer Friends of MPW)	Mr L Scudder
Mr R Hull	Mrs D Townsend
Mrs C Hubbard	Mr J Townsend
Mr D Hubbard	Mr S Walker (Chairman)
Mrs J Kendall	Mrs J Willis
Mr J Lee	

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr T Buttle, Mrs C Hardstaff, Mrs M Hollinrake 5th Hucknall Scout leaders, Mrs M Kerr, Mr R Kerr, Mrs R Lee, Mr N Penlington, Mr B Smith

### 2. **MINUTES OF THE 2002 AGM**

Mrs Kendall proposed acceptance, seconded by Mrs Barker and agreed.

### 3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman reported on a year of consolidation with the completion of the following work:-

- a) Disabled footpaths in the main woodland.
- b) Most of the landscaping in Grange Cottage Wood, although further top soil was needed before final grass and wildflower sowing.
- c) Submission of the final report and invoicing to the Countryside Agency in respect of the Local Heritage Grant with the next stage to be discussed with a view to submitting a Phase II grant application.

- d) Progress in clearing the area around the picnic area, which had hosted a good BBQ but further nettle cutting needed.
- e) A lot of fencing work as a result of motorists crashing through sections on Papplewick Lane.
- f) Installation of barriers at entrances for safety reasons.
- g) Steps down to the dipping platforms which had become a nice feature during the summer months.
- h) Installation of a gate to Grange Cottage Wood for security reasons.

Mr Walker also informed members of plans to construct a bridge over the river in Papplewick Dam in order to link the site to a new footpath which would connect to the definitive footpath across the meadows between Papplewick and Linby. He confirmed the landowner had agreed in principle to this.

With regard to Moor Pond Mr Walker reported the Environment Agency had confirmed the 'Crassula' had been eradicated and as further spraying was probably not be needed the Steering Committee was considering further ways of improving the pond. As a result of the water in the pond being at an all time low it would also facilitate the removal of a lot of the trees. Lee Scudder had also taken the opportunity to excavate the drain and the archaeologist was to make an inspection.

Grange Cottage Wood – a lot of work to be undertaken to create an attractive glade. Once work was completed members were informed funding had been received from Ashfield District Council to provide a litterbin and seat

Events were discussed including 2 successful barn dances. Also donations from Ikea goods had resulted in a lot of money being raised by the friends.

Mr Walker explained how the project accounts had been set up under the auspices of the Parish Council but that it had been agreed to separate the funds raised by the 'Friends' group. A bank account had subsequently been opened and funds transferred into it with Mrs Hull acting as Treasurer.

Chairman said he was fortunate to be supported by an able and willing committee that had taken on many different tasks. On a sad note he was sorry to report on the death of Colin Passey, who had contributed a lot of hard work for the project, and that the Steering Committee had agreed to install a commemorative seat in his memory. Margaret had agreed the style and location by the pond. Mr Walker also informed the Friends that Mrs Jenny Hardwick was donating another seat in memory of her mother Mrs Dawson who had lived on Moor Road opposite Moor Pond Wood and who had enjoyed walking around the pond.

#### **4. PROJECT TREASURER'S REPORT**

Copies of the unaudited accounts for the project to 31st March 2003 were circulated at the meeting together with details of the 'Friends' account. It was reported that on closure of the Parish Council's account for the Friends contributions £662.78 had been transferred to the new Friends' account with £1,000 being donated to the project into a general fund as part of the Parish Council's project accounts. Mrs Barker confirmed that although the Parish Council had approved the accounts the auditor had not signed them off.

Mrs Barker reported the actual income for 2002-2003 had been approximately £4,000. This included grants from Action for Wildlife (which had been paid twice with one being refunded); Sherwood Forest Trust (seeding/strimming); Linby Parish Council (towards entrance gate Papplewick Dam) and Ashfield District Council (litterbin for Grange Cottage Wood) together with part payment of the Local Heritage Initiative grant. She also reported that the Friends had raised approximately £769 during the year from Ikea products, the first barn dance and the sale of the calendars.

Mrs Barker confirmed that the final report and invoices had been submitted in respect of the LHI grant. Also that grant money was available to complete work in Grange Cottage Wood and clearing/improvements to Moor Pond providing further spraying was not necessary. Friends were also informed that a grant application had been submitted to WREN to fund a new footpath in Papplewick Dam and Mr Scudder, who had submitted the application, reported that no decision had yet been made. Mrs Barker also confirmed another grant application was being considered for funding towards the creation of the bridge over the river in Papplewick Dam should permission be received for the creation of the new footpath linking the dam with the meadows definitive path as mentioned earlier. She informed the Friends that Notts. CC was to approach the landowner re the footpath creation and dedication.

No questions were raised and the Chairman gave his thanks to Mrs Barker.

#### **5. FRIENDS' TREASURER'S REPORT**

Chairman reported that Mrs Hull had agreed to take on this role and that the new bank account had been opened in June. A copy of the accounts produced by Mrs Hull was circulated to those present. This showed the transferred opening balance of £635 and income and expenditure since June with a balance of £884.99 to the 30th September 2003. Mrs Hull reported that two fund raising events had taken place since opening the account. The BBQ had made £61 with £21 being raised by Mrs Preston's impromptu raffle at that event and £186 from the second barn dance, with further monies to come in.

No questions were asked about the accounts and the Chairman thanked Mrs Hull.

#### **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman read from the Constitution's requirements for election of members. He also explained the composition of the project Steering Committee. He reported that Mrs Hollinrake having been Secretary since the beginning of the project had decided to give it up. Nominations had been requested but as none had been received the existing members were re-elected as follows: Chairman – Mr S Walker, Project Treasurer – Mrs Barker as the Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Margaret Kerr and Mrs Margaret Passey as Friends representatives and Mrs Marguerite Hull as Treasurer for the Friends. A further nominee was requested from the Friends to sit on the Steering Committee and later in the evening Mrs Diane Townsend agreed to become a member.

#### **7. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The Chairman put forward the Steering Committee's recommendation that the subscriptions stay the same at £1 per person and £2 for family or group membership. Also that a charge

be made at those meetings when a speaker had been organised in order to cover expenses incurred. Mrs Passey proposed the subscriptions stay the same with £1 being charged at appropriate meetings to cover speaker expenses. This was agreed.

## **8. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Following a break for coffee, during which a raffle was held, a discussion took place on suggested speakers. It was agreed to approach Gill Grievson of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forest; Papplewick Pumping Station re current grant works improvements; Mr & Mrs Marshall re rearing Friesian cattle; Dr Peter Kirby on the invertebrate survey and Mr John Flanders on wood carving.

The National Tree Week in November was discussed and possible shrub planting.

The proposal to install a bridge over the river in Papplewick Dam was discussed and Mr Preston pointed out that the Rivers Authority permission would probably be needed. He also raised the point of who would empty the litterbin to be installed in Grange Cottage Wood. Mrs Barker agreed to discuss this with Ashfield District Council.

Mr Scudder agreed to lead a fungi foray on Sunday 26th October. It was also suggested the picnic area in Papplewick Dam be used for another event but earlier in the year, i.e. June when the days were longer.

Installation of barn owl boxes and future archaeology were also discussed.

Mrs Passey showed members a proposed design for a 2004 calendar, which had taken into accounts comments made after the sale of the 2003 calendar. Members were asked if they felt they could sell 10 calendars each but following discussion on the time scale for producing them and the cost of other calendars on offer it was agreed not to pursue the matter further.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.