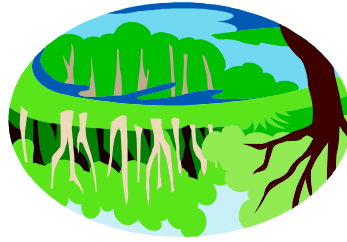


Moor Pond Wood Project, Papplewick



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE **'FRIENDS OF MOOR POND WOOD' HELD ON** **FRIDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2008 IN PAPPLEWICK VILLAGE HALL**

In attendance:

Mr A Adams
Ms V Atkin
Mrs M Barker
Mr T Barker
Mr R Barton
Mr T Butler
Mrs C Hardstaff
Mrs M Hull
Mr R Hull
Mrs M Kerr
Mr R Kerr
Mrs J Kendall
Mr J Lee

Mrs R Lee
Mr K Morton
Mrs P Morton
Mr J Phillips
Mrs M Phillips
Mr N Penlington
Mr R Preston
Mrs V Preston
Mr L Scudder
Mr A Smith
Mrs C Spencer
Mr S Walker
Mr C Womble

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr and Mrs McCracken, Mrs Claire Tyack and the Archaeologists

2. MINUTES OF THE 2007 MEETING

With the addition of her name to the list of members present Margaret Passey proposed the minutes be accepted, which was seconded by Keith Morton and agreed.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Walker informed members his report would comprise a slide presentation as a celebration of the completion of the Local Heritage Initiative and Breathing Spaces grants.

He then went on to thank a number of people for their hard work and support throughout the year including the members of the Steering Committee and Mrs

Barker who had indicated it would be her last year as Secretary to the Steering Committee.

The Chairman then asked if members had any questions, which were as follows:-

Jim Lee asked whether progress had been made with the land north of Grange Cottages owned by Coftons. The Chairman reported that as the residential development of the adjoining land had come to a halt no further discussions had taken place. Also, that this area was not part of the current project site, although once the development had been completed the corridor section between the river and the housing would be handed over to the Local Authority. Mr Walker also reported that Coftons had agreed the archaeologist could investigate the mill site.

Mr Preston questioned the integrity of the Co-op and asked if thought had been given to trying to get the area listed to safeguard the land. Mr Walker confirmed the archaeologists felt the area was of a national importance but if listed work by the Friends' group would be restricted. He did inform the meeting, however, that Local Nature Reserve status was being considered.

Claire Hardstaff asked for an update on the artistic interpretation project and Mr Walker confirmed the grant under Building Better Communities had been held back because the agreement with the Co-op needed to be extended.

Mr Scudder thought Coftons had agreed to contribute and the Chairman confirmed the company was obliged to pay a developer contribution called 'Section 106' money to the District Council to be used towards appropriate open space/recreation provision as part of the development. The company had confirmed it would be happy for some of this funding to be spent on the art interpretation for the project.

Discussion followed about the renewal/extension of the agreement between Notts. County Council and the Co-operative Society. Mr Walker reported that the existing management agreement did not include the archaeological features.

Mr Richard Hull pointed out that some years previous several members had undertaken training for strimming but the licence had now expired. Mr Walker stated there needed to be an active recruitment of volunteers with continued training.

Margaret Passey thanked Mr Walker for his presentation.

Margaret Kerr then gave a vote of thanks to Robin Barton for his regular litter picking around the woodland. Members gave him a round of applause.

Thanks were also expressed to Lee Scudder, the Leen Valley Conservation Volunteers and the Steering Committee for all the work they had undertaken during the year.

4. REPORTS ON THE PROJECT ACCOUNTS

The accounts were presented as follows:-

- (b) Friends' Accounts - Mr Adams, the group's Treasurer, spoke to the accounts he had prepared and which were circulated at the meeting. Following a deficit the previous year he was pleased to report the account was in credit due to the successful barn dance.

Mr Adams thanked Carol Spencer for again auditing the accounts and the Steering Committee and Friends for such a good year. The Chairman thanked Mr Adams for a clear presentation of the accounts.

- (a) Parish Council Accounts - Mr Walker explained the history to the project funding and that it now made sense for the Friends' Group to run its own finances and for the Parish Council's Moor Pond Wood account to be run down. A statement of the funding prepared by Mr Walker was circulated at the meeting. He pointed out it was an unofficial statement of account and did not necessarily balance because the grants detailed had not only been obtained by the Parish Council, but also by the Friends' Group and Notts. County Council.

The meeting was informed around £8,000 remained in the Parish Council's Moor Pond Wood account and that it would be more sensible for the Council to spend this rather than hand it back. Therefore, future payments would be paid from the Parish Council account.

Colin Womble as Chairman of the Parish Council confirmed what Mr Walker had said about the Parish Council's accounting for the project. Also, it had always been envisaged the Moor Pond Wood Project would separate from the Council and that it was now a convenient time to finalise this.

Having noted from the Treasurer's accounts the Group had about £12,000 in assets with £6,550 of that to be invoiced within the next few days, the balance would mark a new beginning when further funding would need to be brought into the project.

Rob Kerr asked if consideration had been given to the group applying for charitable status and Mr Adams replied to say that although it had been considered it was felt that the procedure would be very drawn-out.

- (c) Subscriptions - Mr Adams informed members he had good news, in that he was recommending the subscription remain unchanged at £3 for an adult but with an amendment to £1 for under 18s and £5 for any organisation membership. This was unanimously agreed.

5. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

For the benefit of those who had not attended previous AGMs the Chairman explained the composition of the Steering Committee. He informed the meeting the existing members were happy to continue but if anyone else wished to sit on the committee they would be very welcome, as there was no limit on numbers.

Mr Walker explained that although Mrs Barker had indicated at the previous year's AGM she wished to stand down from Secretary to the Steering Committee, she had agreed to continue for one more year. However, the Chairman said the Committee needed to look for someone new to undertake this role.

With no further AGM business the Chairman closed the formal AGM at 8.20pm.

An informal discussion followed with the Chairman asking members to consider and comment on:-

1. What social events they felt should be held during the following year.
2. How they wished to see the monthly meetings organised.
3. What they thought about the proposals put forward in the action plan.

Mr Walker also informed members that the Committee had agreed to move the monthly meetings to the second to last Friday of the month as the last Friday always fell at Bank Holiday weekends.

At the October meeting he confirmed there would be a talk by Wendy Radford on the Cedar Wildlife Sanctuary at Kirkby-in-Ashfield.

It was also agreed to hold workdays on Sunday 5th and 26th October.

On behalf of the Friends Mrs Kendall thanked the Steering Committee, and all those involved in running the project, for their hard work.

A general discussion followed with refreshments being served.