

Folly Wood AGM (via Zoom), 13 April 2021

Present: Ruth Illingworth (chair), Dominique Shead (secretary), Mark Harrison (treasurer), Nick Mills, Paul and Clare Sheridan, Richard and Helen Keating, Nick Weir and Carol Mathews, Grace Bermingham, Andy Freedman, Cathy Beeching, James Seigel, Zoe Bedford

Apologies: Carolyn Buckley, Sean Nolan, Gabriel Kay, Jack Richardson, Nadine Smykatz-Kloss, Jackie Rowanly, Julia Wade, Barbara Imrie, Ben Spencer, Wendy Gerard, Beth Richardson

Minutes of 2020 AGM

These were summarized and approved.

Finance Report

The accounts were distributed in a previous email and were summarized by Mark. We made a loss this past year due to the tree felling, though we broke even on the milling and selling of the resulting timber. We currently have £2,600 in the bank. Ruth and Dom will need to sign the accounts. HMRC has agreed to register us as a dormant company. We do not need to have the accounts audited, but the membership needs to agree to this: Mark proposed, Dom seconded, no objections.

Secretary's Report

Dom read out her report. The signs will be going up soon in the wood.

Election of directors

Ruth is carrying on as chair since due to Covid it is difficult to change posts. The other directors have agreed to stay on. If anyone wishes to stand as a director to help with the running of the wood, you would be most welcome, please let us know.

Membership increase

At a previous meeting for directors only, everyone agreed the price per member's share should go up but couldn't agree on a final amount. After some discussion, Ruth proposed that the number of members should go up to 70, that the cost per share should be £600 (strictly speaking, 600 £1 shares), and that this should be reviewed in five years' time (seconded Nick). Mark reiterated that those members paying £500 for their share would receive the same amount back when/if they sold it.

Future plans and policies

There are a number of issues to consider over the next year and which members are encouraged to adopt:

1. £20 annual contribution to cover costs: Helen usually emails members after the AGM and in August about this. Approximately 50% contribute. Helen will encourage members to pay by standing order.
2. Camping guidelines: these need to be rewritten. Any volunteers?
3. Cleared area where the larch fell: suitable as a new campfire area with seating? Andy suggested we discuss this at the 10-year celebration and will start moving a few logs.
4. Future felling: in particular, any more larch, plus ash that's suffering from ash dieback. Cathy and Carol said they didn't want ash taken down unless it was dangerous and this was agreed. Andy and Richard said they'd be willing to be part of a felling group to look at the issues. Richard suggested that cheaper prices might be obtained that combined felling and milling, rather than having separate costs for each process. Tree surgeon Stuart will look at the holm oak that's leaning across the road.
5. Information for new members: Ruth and Dom to draw up new document.
6. Wording for non-members using the wood: occasionally some non-members are using the fire circle, which is supposed to be for members only. What should we say to them? Ruth to ask Symon Doliczny.

7. Non-members using the wood for charged-for events: we need a policy for this. Should we ask for a percentage of what they charge or should we just say no? Nick agreed to put together a document, with contribution from Grace, starting with a list of pro's and cons.

10-year celebration event

The meeting felt that the event should take place after the summer holidays. Dates proposed at this stage are Sundays in September: 5, 12 or 19. Jack Richardson will need to be consulted.

AOB

Everyone agreed that it would be nice for members to gather in the wood after restrictions on numbers are lifted: 22 or 23 May were proposed (TBC).