

Folly Wood AGM, 26 March 2023

Present: Nigel Westaway (chair), Dominique Shead (secretary), Mark Harrison (treasurer), Nick Mills, Paul & Clare Sheridan, Tom Sykes, Ruth Illingworth, Andy Freedman, Ben Spencer, Richard & Helen Keating, Frances Dathan, Graham Russell

Apologies: John McLellan, Barbara Imrie, Nadine Smykatz-Kloss, Jackie Rowanly, Julia Wade, Adam Biscoe, Carol Mathews, Nick Weir, Wendy Gerard, Ruth Schamroth, Melissa Roussopoulos

Minutes of 2022 AGM

Last year's minutes were distributed and approved.

Finance Report

Mark summarized the accounts (attached). We made a £190 loss over the year due to felling costs. Half the members paid the voluntary annual donation of £20. Helen will be sending out another reminder for the donation and it was agreed that once Mark had seen who had given money and who hadn't, we would email those who hadn't, encouraging them to do so! Nigel and Dom signed the accounts. HMRC has agreed to register us as a dormant company and we do not need to have the accounts audited (prop. Nick, sec. Andy, no objections).

Secretary's Report

Dom read out her report (attached).

Election of directors

After last year's AGM Nigel and Tom came to an agreement that Nigel would take over from Ruth as chair from 2022, and Tom would follow on after the 2023 AGM for the following year. Jack, Ruth and Nick wish to stand down as directors, and Ben would like to become one. Mark will also become a director, as treasurer, giving a total of 7 directors (Tom, Dom, Nigel, Paul, Ben, Barbara, Mark). Mark reminded everyone that every three years, directors are supposed to stand down and then be re-elected (if they wish to rejoin). Chair and director appointments were approved (prop. Nick, sec. Andy).

AOB

1. Pond proposal. Nigel outlined the plan for a woodland pond (emailed out recently to the membership) and this was approved. It was agreed that Nigel, Ben and Nick would take the plan forward. SVP are making ponds and we should be able to visit the one they've created at Salmon Springs in June. Nick warned against badgers piercing the lining. Falling trees might also damage the lining. We would need to cost in an underlay as well as a strong liner. Nick suggested putting a cap on the whole project of £1,500, which was approved. He also said he'd ask fellow member Bob Bray for advice. We need to check our insurance policy.
2. Guidelines on numbers attending events. The numbers proposed by the social/ events group for the different kinds of gatherings depend very much on the type of activity – eg. whether sitting round the fire or running round the wood. We agreed not to get into long discussions about numbers, but follow the guidelines and reassess in a year's time. Dom will upload them onto the website and keep notes of how many people attend gatherings when they make bookings. Nigel pointed out the difference between footfall and impact. He and Tom will put together a map of the footpaths so we can monitor their use.
3. Risk assessments. New risk assessment templates have been prepared by the social /events group for four different-sized gatherings. These will be put onto the website and will be downloadable by any member needing to fill one in (Dom will advise when this is necessary).
4. Wildflower surveys. These will carry on throughout 2023 on the last Saturday of every month. Ruth will send out reminders for those who'd like to join in. No expertise required!
5. Firewood. People are using stored firewood and not replacing it. Please bring your own with you in future!
6. Tom stuck a calendar for the whole year onto a tree and encouraged people to book social events.