

## **Folly Wood Members' Meeting, 6 February 2022**

**Present:** Ruth Illingworth (chair), Dominique Shead (minutes), Andy Freedman, Paul Sheridan, Mark Harrison, Cathy Beeching, Perdita Dawson

**Apologies:** Jack Richardson, Beth Richardson, Carolyn Buckley, Sean Nolan, Adam Biscoe, Barbara Imrie, Ruth Schamroth, Jezza Green, Richard and Helen Keating, Nadine Smykatz-Kloss, Carol Mathews, Nick Weir, Simon Arundel, Clare Sheridan

### **Minutes from the previous meeting: matters arising**

Ruth will contact a land agent to find out how much they would charge for a valuation of the wood.

### **Ecology and social working groups**

Andy read out a report from the social/events group, and Ruth reported on the ecology group's first meeting (see below). If any other members wish to get involved in either of these groups, it's not too late!

### **Ash felling**

There are three or four ash branches overhanging Gobey's land or the road (and in the case of the road, near telephone cables). Mark will contact tree surgeon Patrick to see if he has some availability to deal with these (also a dead larch on the boundary near the camp fire). There is some urgency with the branches/trees on the boundary as Gobey's cattle go back in the field in early April. Cathy also suggested contacting Jim Hannis at Cranham sawmill who might be able to help, and might be a good contact for planking in the future.

### **AGM**

The date for the AGM will be Sunday 20 March at 3pm, at the wood. Ruth wishes to step down as chair, and we would ideally like some more directors. Please get in touch if you're willing to volunteer. Being a director means attending quarterly meetings (plus the AGM) and helping with the running of the wood.

### **AOB**

- Website working properly, including booking calendar.
- Three people on the waiting list.

## **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

### **Social/events group:**

We are looking at:

1. Proposing a simple process and a set of information which a person running an event at the wood should be aware of (to include details for visitors, risk assessments and recording, in consultation with Dom).
2. Balancing the five different types of events that take place at the wood:
  - a) Members' meetings
  - b) Work days
  - c) Events to which all members are encouraged to come, including celebrations and marking the seasons
  - d) Events created by members such as singing, cooking or woodcraft skills, to which all members are invited
  - e) Events booked by members for their friends and families, e.g. birthday parties

3. Talking with the ecology group about an appropriate, sustainable level of human activity and then devising ways of managing the number (and size) of bookings each year.
4. Encouraging wood members to offer to run activities to which all members are invited (b, c and d) – e.g. people like working in the wood and would like to use the bowl as a theatre!

*Andy Freedman, Melissa Roussopoulos, Frances Dathan, 6/2/22*

**Ecology group:**

We have had one meeting so far and are focusing on:

1. Trees: Ash felling where necessary. Tree felling in general, particularly the larch. What species to plant? Creating possible clearings. Trees will be mapped by Beth.
2. Flora: The list of flora produced by John Rees is now on the website. Bob Bray will be supplying snowdrops to plant in spring. Primroses will also survive in shade. Small Woods are running a day course in Brecon on edible food, which we might attend.
3. Fauna: There will be a bat survey in spring. A birdwatching day is proposed, possibly a moth trap too. Bird boxes suggested.

We are trying to reach out to people with knowledge on any of the above; please get in contact if you're interested. Our next meeting is a walk around the wood on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.

*Ruth Illingworth, Dominique Shead, Jackie Rowanly, Beth Richardson, Nigel Westaway, Magnus Taylor, Cathy Beeching, 6/2/22*