

Folly Wood AGM, 12 April 2025

Present: Tom Sykes (chair), Dominique Shead (secretary), Mark Harrison (treasurer), Ben Spencer, John McLellan, Nigel Westaway, Ruth Illingworth, Richard & Helen Keating, Grace & Rob Bermingham, Adam Biscoe, Jason Dilworth, Andie Bright.

Apologies: Martin Benson, Nadine Smykatz-Kloss, Paul & Clare Sheridan, Oli Rodker, Mungo Morris, Nick Mills, Barbara Imrie, Jackie Rowanly, Graham Russell, Wendy Gerard, Julia Wade, James Seigel, Carol Mathews, Nick Weir, Andy Freedman.

Minutes of 2024 AGM

Last year's minutes were distributed and approved (prop. Tom, sec. Ben).

Finance Report

Mark summarized the accounts (sent out with the agenda). We made a £616 loss over the year due to pond costs. Approximately 65% of members paid the voluntary annual donation of £20 after emails from Helen Keating and later in the year from Mark/Dom; this amount totalled £1,105. John queried some figures in the finance report and Mark submitted a new report after discovering an error (attached). The accounts were approved and it was agreed an audit was not needed (prop. Tom, sec. John, no objections).

Secretary's Report

Dom read out her report (sent out with the agenda).

Election of directors

Tom will be stepping down as chair, and Ben has volunteered to take over (prop. Tom, sec. Nigel). As per the rules, which state that a third of the directors (i.e. 2 people) should stand down each year and then stand for re-election, Tom and Nigel stood down and were re-elected (prop. Richard, sec. Ben, no objections). We have the following 7 directors: Ben, Dom, Mark, Nigel, Paul, Tom, John.

AOB

1. Wood stacked by the campfire is for members to take away for firewood if they wish to.
2. It was agreed that the management plan would be revisited during the course of the year, particularly with regard to larch felling. We discussed again what to do with dead larch and whether to organize milling/planking locally through Eddie at Wades Farm. Tom and John said they would be willing to look at it again to see if it might be viable. Richard will forward them the figures from last time this was done.
3. A message from Andy: the events group will be organizing an event in the bowl one evening this summer.
4. Andie asked whether our rules state that dogs should be on the lead in the wood. It says so on our original wooden sign. Richard is taking the sign home to repair and make it legible again, and Dom will add the rule to the website.
5. Ben updated the meeting on progress at Slade Wood. A price of £62,000 has been agreed with the owners, plus £4,000 for solicitors etc. £21,000 has been promised so far in shares and loans. Boundaries have been finalized and are being lodged with Land Registry (progress on this unconfirmed). A working group after the meeting discussed publicity matters, principally creating an A5 flyer for distribution around Summer Street, and amending the website so that people can pay for their share online.