



FRIENDS OF CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26 MARCH 2018 at 8pm in Chorleywood Library

Minutes

Welcome by Chairman, Greg Hill

1. Apologies for absence 24 in attendance, including Committee members. Apologies for absence from Janet Anders, Anthony and Norma Boswell, Brian Cooke, John Meyrick-Thomas, Alison Rubens, Bob Sutherland, Jackie Worrall.
2. Minutes of AGM held on March 30th 2017 These had been circulated with the Notice of Meeting and were taken as read and signed as a correct record. Proposal to accept the minutes as a true record proposed by Stuart Marshall, seconded by Nikki Varnals; approved by the meeting.
3. The Chairman's Report. Greg Hill made a number of comments, firstly noting that Olive Entwistle had died, 25 June 2017. She was the founder of the Friends of Chorleywood Common and held office as Secretary, Chairman and, latterly, President. Greg also commented on two others who had died in the last year; John Warren and Daniel Dyne. He noted that the activities during the year had been reduced from their previous normal levels. However, the Friends had a stand at Village day, they had organised a Wildflowers and Butterflies walk, monthly butterfly surveys, evening excursions to look for glow worms on the Common. The Committee had made representations on planning, thanks to Alison Rubens and work on the Neighbourhood Plan had made progress. Greg explained he would be standing down as Chairman and from the Committee. He went on to list some of the usual activities which could be run in future; outdoor member events, Winter evening meetings, Young Rangers, representations on planning, notes of CWPC and Open Spaces meetings. There were no questions.
4. The Treasurer's Report. Michael Hyde gave his report, noting in particular the cash at bank of £5,056, the 3 year cycle for payments and hence subscriptions paid in advance of £597. The financial position was satisfactory with an excess of income over expenditure of £92. He noted the contribution of £250 toward the updated traffic lights at the junction of Common Road and the A404. Proposal to accept the Treasurer's Report proposed by Gareth Hunt, seconded by Simon Varnals and carried nem con.
5. Appointment of Independent examiner of the accounts. This had been carried out by Andrew York, who is prepared to continue in this role, proposed by Greg Hill, seconded by Michael Hyde. The Meeting approved this arrangement; nem con.
6. Election of Officers.
 1. Secretary: Petrea Conway proposed by Michael Hyde, seconded by Nikki Varnals
 2. Treasurer: Michael Hyde proposed by Nikki Varnals, seconded by Bob Sutherland
 3. Membership Secretary: Stuart Marshall proposed by Simon Varnals, seconded by Gareth Hunt

4. Chairman is unwilling to continue in post. Proposal for the Chairman to be Michael Hyde, proposed by Stuart Marshall, seconded by Nikki Varnals.
5. Vice Chairman: Alison Rubens wishes to stand down; position vacant.
6. The Chairman asked the meeting to agree to the appointment of Officers being taken as a single resolution, which was agreed. On the resolution being put, the re-election of the Chairman/Treasurer (joint role), Secretary and Membership Secretary were carried nem con.
7. Election of Committee. Greg Hill reminded the meeting that members of the Committee are elected for a three year term. This year Simon Varnals retires by rotation, prepared to stand again. Ray Krystofiak was co-opted during the year, he offers himself for re-election. Proposers and seconders: Simon Varnals, proposed by Nikki Varnals, seconded by Michael Hyde; Ray Krystofiak, proposed by Michael Hyde, seconded by Stuart Marshall. The Chairman asked the meeting to agree to the appointment of the Committee being taken as a single resolution, which was agreed nem con. The Chairman therefore confirmed that from the conclusion of the meeting the Committee would consist of the officers, Mike Warburg (Vice-President) [however, refer to Item 9 below], Michael Hyde (Chairman), Vice Chairman - vacant, Petrea Conway (Secretary), Michael Hyde (Treasurer), Stuart Marshall (Membership Secretary), and Committee members Gareth Hunt, Ray Krystofiak, Christian Koefoed-Nielsen, Bob Sutherland, Simon Varnals, Nikki Varnals and Jackie Worrall. No response to the request for further support.
8. Future of Friends of Chorleywood Common
The Chairman reminded those present of the various activities which the FoCC had run in previous years. Stuart Marshall noted that these were all important and need to be continued, but it was a question of how this could be achieved. Simon Varnals endorsed Stuart's comments. Ellie Kirkman noted the importance of social media and offered to use her platform to communicate.
There was some discussion on the possibility of building a closer relationship with Chorleywood Residents' Association (CRA). It was noted that there was some cooperation between Neighbourhood Watch and CRA. Owen Edis noted that CRA had a strong Committee but some were standing down and there was a need for a Treasurer and Vice Chairman. Also there was one portfolio focussed on the environment which could be good for FoCC. Greg Hill mentioned the difference of opinion between CRA and FoCC over the Play Area; Owen Edis explained that CRA had taken a neutral position. SV noted that there had not been a real 'vote' in Chorleywood on the Play Area and that FoCC's raison d'être was to protect the Common. Gareth Hunt felt FoCC might be in a stronger position as part of a larger group, Nikki Varnals felt it would make sense to co-operate with CRA, but Greg Hill noted CRA's other interests. Petrea Conway noted the possibility of FoCC pooling some activities with those of other Environmental Groups. Owen Edis asked for a vote but it was agreed this was not the forum and it was too early to make any decision.
9. Any other business. Stuart Marshall proposed that Mike Warburg should become the President of FoCC; Petrea Conway seconded the proposal; all consented. Thanks were given to the contribution Alison Rubens had made to the Committee over the years. Stuart Marshall thanked Greg Hill for his work as Chairman; his calm, measured and methodical approach and his valuable knowledge on legal matters. Stuart presented Greg with a card and voucher.

There being no further items for discussion the AGM closed at 8.50pm.

Immediately following the meeting, there was a short refreshment break.

This was followed by a presentation from Yvonne Merritt, Clerk of Chorleywood Parish Council, and Tony Edwards, Chair, Chorleywood Parish Council Open Spaces Committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15pm.