

DRAFT

The Friends of Oakley Wood

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 18 MARCH 2024
AT THE BARFORD MEMORIAL HALL
AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Liz Sheehan (Chairman) Wendy Barlow (Vice Chairman)
Rod Scott (Treasurer) Judy Cooper (Secretary)
Chris Wood (Web Manager) Susan Watt
Keith Wellsted Graham Leeke
Nick Martin (WWT)

and 11 members of the public (David Pritchard, Julie Pritchard, Graham Collis, John Ciriani, Sean Deeley, Cllr Jan Matecki, Helen Gloster, Cllr Simon Button, Cllr Matthew Button, Harriet Wiles, Natalie Pastor)

Apologies: Cllr Andrew Day, Cllr Penny Anne O'Donnell, James Johnson (Barford Clerk), Gillian Glover

Adoption of the Minutes of the AGM held on 14.3.23: The Minutes were taken as an accurate record of proceedings and proposed for adoption by Wendy Barlow, seconded by Chris Wood.

Chairman's report:

Good evening and a warm welcome to you all.

I will briefly outline what the committee have discussed this year in our role of monitoring what is going on in the Wood and trying to liaise between the public, Warwick District Council and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

The main focus of our meeting this year has been discussing the proposed BioBlitz which we intend to hold on Sunday 2 June once details are finalised. This was first mooted by fellow committee member Chris Wood last March. He was interested in seeing the impact of the changes that have taken place over the last ten years since the previous Woodland Craft Day and BioBlitz in April 2014. There was general enthusiasm among the committee members.

In order to hold such an event there is a great deal of planning involved and I'll now give you a short run down of work done so far. We have had various discussions and emails relating to grant fund applications. By January this year Chris had put together a pro forma of what we needed to provide, the tasks involved and the likely costs. He summarised specialist groups for study. These are invertebrates, plants, birds, fungi, mammalia, lepidoptera and amphibia amongst others. Rod, our Treasurer, contributed information relating to the previous event ten years ago, and the money that was granted and spent. In our January meeting we became more specific with our tasks, and Nick Martin from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, who will be speaking to us later this evening, provided information regarding organisations which might help with species identification, and he has continued to provide invaluable support on the subject. We also enlisted the help of Jon Holmes from Warwick District Council. Jon approved the idea and intimated there would be some funding from WDC. Keith has done sterling work relating to the insurance cover the day. Karl Curtis from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has been supportive with his experience of the previous BioBlitz and other useful advice. Chris has heard back from the Warwickshire Amphibian Group and Warwickshire Mammal Group, who have both confirmed

that they are happy to be in attendance on the day and intend to bring along other specialists to assist. We are in a virtual circle regarding Parish Council donations as they require detailed plans and costings and we don't have that Available yet. We continue to seek any experts that might volunteer to give their expertise on the day.

During one of the meetings we discussed details for this AGM and came up with a quiz for this year's entertainment. This will follow after a short break for refreshments.

At the meetings we discussed the new path surfaces which have been laid over the last 12 months and they have been generally well received especially now that they have settled down and weathered in. We have also discussed less happily the vandalism that has taken place to our trail camera which Chris monitors, the results of which you can see on our website. On a happier note, Oakley Wood was successful again in getting the Green Flag Award this year.

It remains for me to thank the committee for their enthusiasm and hard work. They are Wendy Barlow, Judy Cooper, Rod Scott, Chris Wood, Graham Leeke, Susan Watt and Keith Wellsted. I'd like to give a particular thank you to Judy without whose secretarial skills The Friends of Oakley Wood committee would not exist and to Susan for her poster designs. Also special thanks go to Chris for his many visits to the Wood and photographs of its wildlife which often end up on the website. I highly recommend you to go online to have a look. He also came to the rescue of the notice boards in the Wood, one that was in desperate need or repair and the other that was vandalised and partly destroyed during the late autumn. Chris also joins the volunteer working parties as I do occasionally organised by George Green throughout the winter, helping the Friends contribute to the maintenance of the Wood.

As a committee we know that it is a rare privilege to have Oakley Wood in our vicinity. We hope we are contributing, and attempting to preserve the web of connectivity built by animals, trees, plants, soil, ponds and the microbes below and above the earth.

I will remind you of the date of the proposed BioBlitz – Sunday 2 June from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm so please encourage anyone you know to come to Oakley Wood on that day.

It remains for me to draw your attention to the bucket at the back of the room where any donations will be gratefully received. We make no charge to members to join our group and greatly appreciate any funds to cover any costs, for example of this AGM. Please this evening have a glass of wine with us and some snacks and then enjoy the quiz and an interesting talk by Nick Martin.

Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts:

Rod presented the accounts showing payments made and monies received and an opening bank balance of £200.00. Grants received of £246.00 and payments made of £438.57. There remains a balance of £106.43.

Adoption of the Accounts proposed by Graham Leeke and seconded by Graham Collis.

Web Manager's report:

Annual page views for the last 5 years shows that the most views were made during lockdown in 2020. Last year there were about 7000 views which was slightly up on the year before. Individual page hits showed the walking routes was the most visited. Referrers are websites that provide a link to our website and unsurprisingly Google Search provided the most hits. Dogfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk was also popular and shows 278 hits. There were even 11 views from China!

Our membership numbers are 522 with 353 subscribed for website updates, an increase on the previous year.

Cameras in the Wood: We used to have two cameras. One was stolen in September and any pictures went with the camera. This is even though it was secured by sturdy steel cable and there was evidence that strong cutters had been used. The other one was also attacked but fortunately this one failed. The camera is now moved around from time to time so less likely to be a target. Footage shows that apart from muntjac other species have declined significantly. There appears to be about 50% more dogs than previous years.

Election of Officers:

The list of nominations as presented to the meeting was voted en bloc.
Proposed by Sean Deeley and seconded by Graham Collis.

Any other business:

Cllr Simon Button questioned whether we use social media to promote events. He will kindly forward a list of websites used by Whitnash Town Council.

The formal meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

Following a break for refreshments Nick Martin gave a very interesting talk on Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's various nature reserves, with a particular emphasis on Oakley Wood. Nick is a seasoned speaker and his talk was very well received.

There then followed a nature quiz created by Chris Wood.

Friends of Oakley Wood

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Election of Officers

Nominations have been received for the following Officers:

Chairman	Liz Sheehan
Vice Chairman	Wendy Barlow
Secretary	Judy Cooper
Treasurer	Rod Scott
Website Manager	Chris Wood
Membership Secretary	Chris Wood

Other committee members:

Graham Leeke
Susan Watt
Keith Wellsted

Friends of Oakley Wood AGM 2024

Treasurer's Report

FRIENDS OF OAKLEY WOOD

Receipts & Payments Account - Year ended 31st January 2024

	<u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>2022 - 2023</u>	<u>2021 - 2022</u>
Opening balances - 1st February 2023			
BANK	£299.00	£157.00	£241.48
PETTY CASH	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£299.00	£157.00	£241.48
INCOME			
Events	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Woodland Craft Day	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Grants	£246.00	£200.00	£0.00
AGM	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£0.00	£89.49
TOTAL	£246.00	£200.00	£89.49
PAYMENTS			
Website	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00
AGM costs	£28.40	£28.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£380.17	£0.00	£173.97
Bank Charges	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£438.57	£58.00	£173.97
Surplus / deficit for year	-£192.57	£142.00	-£84.48
OPENING BALANCE less DEFICIT	£106.43	£299.00	£157.00
Closing balances - 31st January 2024			
BANK	£106.33	£299.00	£157.00
PETTY CASH	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£106.33	£299.00	£157.00

Chairman:	Treasurer: <i>R.A. Scott</i>	Date: 4th February 2024
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Date	Ref	Description	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
31-Jan-23		OPENING BALANCE			£299.00
22-Mar-23	100090	agm Hall hire		28.50	£270.50
25-Apr-23	10091	Batteries for Trail Cam		39.99	£230.51
28-Jul-23		income - 246	246		£476.51
24-Aug-23	100092	Cameras		258.18	£218.33
16-Nov-23	100093/4	Notice Board repair		82.00	£136.33
7-Jan-24	100095	WEB SITE =-Chris Hastie	30.00		£106.33
		CLOSING BALANCE			£106.33