

Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group

Minutes of the second Annual General Meeting held on 27th June 2016

Present: Jenni Henderson (in the Chair); Coral Iles, Treasurer; Sally Matthews, Secretary; Walter and Rita McCormick, Committee Members; and 16 supporters from the local area. Also in attendance: Zoe Channon, Community Development Officer for Green Spaces from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

1 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd June 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

2 Introductions and Welcome

The Chairman introduced Committee members and Zoe Channon to the meeting and welcomed everyone, expressing thanks for their support and interest in our work.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

Actions arising from the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting had all been addressed and a list of actions and outcomes had been posted on the display at the back of the hall. The list is also available on our web site.

4 Chairman's Report

Jenni Henderson set out the group's achievements so far in planting, communications with local residents, a tree survey and events to raise funds as well as public awareness of the Group.

We had joined in with local and national initiatives against dog fouling and green fly-tipping and had supported the Hedgehog Street campaign. A survey which is currently in the planning stages will show whether or not hedgehogs, as well as other small mammals, are returning to the Drove in significant numbers

We have a regular pool of about 10 volunteers who attend working parties alongside committee members as they are able. A total of 511 volunteer hours have been recorded this year by the Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group. Our thanks go to all those who give their time and resources to support the Group. More volunteers are always welcome to join us and we have a variety of different jobs for those who do not enjoy pruning, digging and planting.

We wish to record our thanks to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and their staff who have supported us so generously over the last couple of years with advice, guidance, training, tools, printing leaflets and in many other ways.

Plans for the year ahead were outlined. More planting of native species, some managed coppicing, surveys of small mammals and other wildlife as well as the ongoing tree survey are all things we hope to achieve. Events in the autumn and spring as well as a Christmas "thank you" for our supporters are also in our minds.

Generating more interest amongst younger residents is one of our aims and we hope to actively engage more of the local residents who share a property boundary with the Drove. Twitter and/or Facebook accounts may be on the horizon.

5 Treasurer's Report

The accounts of the Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group, going back to its inception some 5 years ago, have been independently examined by a professional accountant. No irregularities were found, although some recommendations for best practice had been made and the Committee has resolved to adopt all of them.

The Group currently has £326.73 in funds. Although we have used donated plants so far, often grown from local seed, it is estimated that to complete all our planting plans over the next three years we will need approx £800 for plants, stakes, compost, etc. We will be investigating grant availability and fund raising options.

6 Resurfacing of the central track

The Committee had received a mixture of comments and questions from local residents following the laying of black road planings on the roadway in Fuzzy Drove between Kempshott Lane and the bollards that mark the beginning of the bridleway. Hampshire County Council, who are responsible for the upkeep of the track way had visited the site and commented that the material used was appropriate for an unmetalled byway.

7 Thanks to the Chairman

The meeting closed with thanks to Jenni Henderson for her untiring work and excellent leadership of the group. Visitors were invited to join us for refreshments and a chat after the meeting.

8 Date of Next Annual General Meeting – Monday 26th June 2017 at 7.30 pm at Kempshott Village Hall

**Sally Matthews
June 2016**

Following the AGM members of the public remained with us and in conversation the following questions were posed which were outside our ability to answer. They have been forwarded to the relevant department at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and replies will be posted here as they are received.

1. Can we investigate whether, in the bridleway section of the Drove, the Ops team (or their contractor) could cut less of the verges to protect planting and conservation work. Perhaps we could agree a maximum width?
2. Tree re-planting – why are trees not replaced when removed? If the Council does not have a budget for this, can others buy trees to replant with Council agreement
3. Is there a policy or definition of what equals a tree in terms of height, girth, etc.
4. Would there be any objection to the tagging of trees – i.e. adding plaques or labels to identify the species