

## **Friends of the Flich Way and Associated Woodlands**

### **Notes from Annual General Meeting dated Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

Venue Takeley Ranger Station

Time started 7.00pm

Time finished 8.48pm

Stan welcomed everybody to the meeting, identified himself and other members of the Executive Committee and explained the purpose of the AGM. The meeting was told that the Ranger's report would be made during the course of a visit to the Dunmow Cutting which would take place at the end of the meeting.

#### **1. Presentation of Report and Accounts**

Wendy said that the year had seen a turnover of over 100 members, 48 of whom had taken part in work parties. 20 work parties had taken place since Christmas with an average of 10 volunteers on each. A number of training events had taken place during the year, including those to help identify dragonflies and newts. Members had also received training on a variety of topics from Parish Paths Partnership (P3), on behalf of whom work would start shortly. The Friends were the largest P3 group. A number of volunteers had also taken part in an evening badger watch.

A copy of the annual accounts had been given to everybody present and Pete gave an explanation of some of the items, making reference to monies received from Community Funding and the Mayor of Dunmow grant. Donations had also been received during the year from members. The meeting was told that continuing efforts to secure funding would need to be made in the coming year to cover both administrative costs as well as specific projects.

**The meeting agreed unanimously to accept the Report and the Annual Accounts.**

#### **2. Appointment of Charity Trustees for 2007-2008.**

Stan said that he had received no new nominations for election.

Stan nominated Wendy Moss for re-appointment as Secretary. **Agreed unanimously.**

Stan nominated Pete Lane for re-appointment as Treasurer. **Agreed unanimously.**

Wendy nominated Stan Davies for re-appointment as Chair. **Agreed unanimously.**

Stan nominated Ann Lane, Claire Malone Lee and Jo Fish as Committee members. **Agreed unanimously.**

#### **3. Alterations to Constitution.**

In view of the Rangers having moved from Rayne Station to Takeley, Stan proposed changing the Charity's postal address to the latter. Nigel pointed out that the Rangers were likely to move from Takeley to the Discovery Centre later in the year. After obtaining Pete's agreement, a fresh proposal was made that the postal address be changed to his home address at 12b Brunwin Road, Rayne.

**The meeting agreed the proposal unanimously.**

Apart from applying for grants for specific work projects, there was a need to generate funds to cover day to day running expenses. It was proposed, therefore, that an annual membership fee be charged and Stan asked the meeting for their thoughts on the matter. A variety of comments were made including reference to the fact that not all members attended work parties. It was also pointed out that other organizations already had subscription charges. A figure of £15 or £20 was suggested as being not unreasonable. It was felt generally that whatever annual charge was settled on, paying members were entitled to expect something in return such as a regular newsletter.

After some further discussion, a proposal was made that an annual membership fee of £12 be sought, to run from 1 April to 31 March. Any reduction in the membership fee to individuals would be at the discretion of the committee in circumstances such as unemployment or low income. Any decision to reduce the fee would be kept confidential to the Officers of the charity. Wendy will advise members when AGM minutes are sent out. Membership cards will

be produced and standing order forms obtained to enable payment to be made. Membership fees can be gift aided, it was decided.

**The proposal was agreed unanimously.**

A break for refreshments then took place.

On resuming the meeting, it was decided that the proposed Dunmow Walk would not take place.

**4. Members' proposed resolutions.**

There were none.

**5. Ranger's Report.**

Nigel said that a lot of work had been done at the Dunmow cutting over the winter period by a local farmer and by volunteers to clear the south facing banks.

Work had also taken place along the boardwalk in Dunmow.

Clearance of rides and protection of stools had taken place at Garnetts, as had charcoal burning.

For the future, wildlife hotspots were being created at various places along the trail.

Benches are also be installed using sleepers.

Rubbish clearance will continue and a series of night walks from Rayne and Takeley are being organized.

In conjunction with Jim Cloke, 6 cycling events are planned.

Cycle Essex on 5 May would be the largest event to take place on the Flitch Way with up to 500 people taking part. Volunteers will act as marshalls along the route.

Discussions were continuing on a diversion of the Flitch Way at High Cross Lane West. The dangerous steps are to be sorted out over the summer.

The boardwalk at Langford cutting is to be taken up and a new path built into the bank.

Wendy will be issuing a summer programme of work parties in the near future.

**6. Any Other Business.**

Forthcoming Open Day mentioned by Jo, to take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm to 5pm. Objects of the day will be to publicise Flitch Way and the Friends and to raise funds for the group. Still looking for volunteers to help on the day. Anyone wishing to do a table top sale will pay £5 to do so.

No other matters were raised and, after thanking everybody for attending, Stan brought the meeting to a close at 8.48pm.