

**Friends of the Flich Way and Associated Woodlands**  
**Notes from Committee meeting of Monday 8 September 2025, Great Notley**

**Taking part:** Alan Trigg (Chair), Sandra Reynolds (Secretary), Stan Davies (Vice-chair), Margaret James (Treasurer), Committee members, Dick Hughes, Andy Hobster, Bob Wright and guests Sue Baumbach and Cheryl Harris

**Apologies for absence:** Wendy Moss, Tom Hamilton (Ranger)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the rangers for use of the room.

**Approval of Minutes of 16 June 2025** - Agreed by all and signed by the Secretary.

**Matters arising and review of Action Points from last meeting.**

Closed actions:

AP34.1 Sandra to invite Sue Baumbach to next committee meeting.

AP34.2 Wendy to order metal parts and contact Pete Lane about spare scaffold poles for Bannister Green Halt information boards.

AP34.4 Sandra to forward Claire Dick's comments and ask for improvement.

AP34.5 Sandra to ask Claire to for ranger participation at the committee meeting.

Carried forward from previous meetings and ongoing:-

AP34.3 Sandra to ask Claire to confirm the locations of the four benches which must be in Takeley ward. Update – the benches have been delivered and are awaiting installation plan from Claire

New Actions:

AP35.1 Stan to draft an article for social media highlighting Terry's good work which Sandra will publish.

AP35.2 Stan to ask Kevin French to submit proposal in writing so we can better comment.

AP35.3 Sandra to prepare Santa event posters and ticket page. Tickets will go on sale on 25 October.

AP35.4 Sandra to book conference room for next meeting.

AP35.5 Stan will invite Terry Blyth and his wife to the Christmas lunch

AP35.6 Stan will start the process of getting the leaflets re-printed.

**Alan Trigg – Chairman's report:**

Welcome all to the September Committee Meeting.

Wendy and Margaret arranged a visit to the Bowes-Lyon house residence in St Pauls Walden near Knebworth followed by Lunch at The Rusty Gun on 24<sup>th</sup> July which wasn't the best of days as the weather was a bit wet and windy. The visit was shorter than expected and a bit disappointing overall.

On a brighter note a big Thank You to Stan who has found someone to repair the bodywork on the railway Carriage.

Thanks to Wendy, Margaret and Sandra it looks like the Gift Aid issue has now been sorted. Dick has identified a number of areas that need clearance following his prickly cycle ride a few weeks ago – This was forwarded to Tom on the same day to add to our work party schedule

**Margaret James – Treasurer's report**

The bank balance as 2 September 2025 is – Current Account £3,523.32, Savings Account £4,723.08 making a total of £8,246.41.

We submitted the Gift Aid claim and received a payment of £194.92.

**Margaret James – Social Activities report**

On the 24 July, 23 of us visited St Paul's Walden Bury, home of the Bowes Lyon family since 1720. Following coffee in the grounds we were shown round the house by the present owner. We then went to the Rusty Gun for a very enjoyable lunch.

We have arranged a return visit to Copped Hall on 23 October. Details will follow shortly. It will be interesting to see what progress has been made. We will of course follow our visit with lunch in a nearby pub.

The Christmas lunch will take place on Friday 19 December and the menu choices will be sent out shortly.

### **Sandra Reynolds – Secretary’s report**

Online statistics – 1,112 web page visits and 2,140 page views in last month. Facebook has 3,343 followers.

Planning Applications and updates (west to east)

Key Highlights – Still awaiting feedback from ECC for someone to manage the £206,720 S106 contribution from the developer of Moors Fields which should fund the bridge over the river Chelmer. I’ve asked Tom Cunningham to help as he is responsible for Essex Highways. I received a response from him on 20 August that steps are being taken internally and we should get a response.

An application has been made at the landfill quarry site at Crumps Farm, to redevelop the site and build a 121 industrial units and. Solar farm with the access over the Flitch Way.

- UTT/23/1470/OP Stansted Distribution Centre redevelopment including new buildings of over 10m high directly next to Flitch Way. Approved 10 January 25. ECC Highways have included £25,000 for the Flitch Way to improve connectivity with Bishops Stortford. No change since last report
- UTT/24/2682/SCO Land to the north of Taylors Farm, Takeley for a 27.4 ha industrial area. The local Parish Councils have pointed out the potential impacts on the Flitch Way and Hatfield Forest. I anticipate a full planning application in future. No change since last report.
- UTT/25/1854/FUL Cranwellian, The Street Takeley. Application to replace existing house and equestrian facilities with 6 houses. It does include a buffer zone. Awaiting decision.
- UTT/24/2242 Land to the west of Station Road, Takeley for 68 houses by Bellway Homes. It does include a buffer zone. We have commented. It is awaiting decision.
- UTT/25/0539 Land to the south of Stortford Road, Little Canfield. Proposed nursery, soft play area, swimming pool, I and versatile learning spaces. Awaiting decision.
- UTT/19/2354 Land to the west of Butleys Lane. Previously 60 homes were granted permission following appeal. The new application seeks to reduce it to 46 homes. Awaiting decision.
- UTT/18/2574 Staggs Farm Land south of Stortford Road for 332 houses. Work is underway at the site. Includes surfaced bridleway creation and £54,000 for Flitch Way.
- UTT/22/3470/OP Land north of Baynard Avenue Flitch Green for 72 houses. Planning was refused in November 23 and an appeal made dated June 24. Appeal allowed 4 March 2025. Inspector acknowledged the Flitch Way was a non-designated heritage asset. A cycle path to the Flitch way to be created.
- Hedgehog Grove Solar Fam – 15 August 25 the company has decided to withdraw their national planning application and proceed via the district planning process so we await further details of their plans.
- BDC 22/03402 Land to the rear of Gilda Terrace. Permission has already been granted and the new developer Crest Nicholson are finalising their plans. We have asked the play area and pump house be relocated as they are adjacent to the Flitch Way. Ongoing with latest plans dated March 2024 showing no changes next to Flitch Way. No change since last report.

### **Wendy Moss – Work Party report**

Since our last meeting in June there have been no work parties due to the summer break. There has been one recruit during the break and we hope he will start coming along when we start again. Sue Baumback and I have spent two afternoons together and unless she has changed her mind she is prepared to start working sending out the emails to volunteers once we have details of the proposed work party locations and dates.

### **Stan Davies – Railway Carriage report**

Since the June meeting, the Carriage has been open to visitors on 53 days with 45 morning sessions and 29 afternoons. In addition, Brian and Richard have attended on 12 Wednesdays for maintenance work on the model railway and other jobs as required.

There have been 1,201 visitors in the period and it has been pleasing to note the Carriage having been open so often on weekdays during the school holidays, Friday having been the only day it has been closed each week. Many thanks are due to the weekday volunteers, Garry, Geoff and Stan and to Kevin, Stan, Lloyd and Gwyneth and Barry and Ros for covering the weekends.

£324.49 has been received from visitor donations and the sale of a variety of goods.

The deteriorating bodywork of the Carriage has been a cause for concern for a considerable time with a number of disappointments in offers to do the work not being followed up. We are very lucky, therefore, to be getting invaluable assistance from Terry Blyth who is doing fantastic work on the Carriage bodywork repairs. Terry lives in Bannister Green and, luckily for us, spent part of his working life on the maintenance of railway rolling stock. A thorough and professional job is being done and, at his insistence, the work is costing us only the cost of materials.

AP35.1 Stan to draft an article for social media highlighting Terry's good work which Sandra will publish.

At the suggestion of one of the volunteers, the monthly Carriage rota is now being posted where it can be seen from the outside when the Carriage is closed.

Thanks to everyone who has helped in any way with the Carriage and to Pam who maintains the monthly volunteer rota.

### **Alan Trigg – Footpath group (P3) report**

June – Clear footpaths in Great Braxted, Kelvedon and Ugley. Clear Bridleway in Wimbish

July – Clear Bridleway in Wimbish, replace 3 plank bridge in Ashen, clear footpath in Hempstead, clear Bridleway in Basildon,

August – Clear footpaths in Hatfield Peverel and Manuden

### **Tom Hamilton – Ranger's report**

No report as Tom unable to attend.

### **Any Other Business**

Little Canfield Waste depot path – On 5 August a site visit was made with the parish council, Sandra, Claire Bunn, Sarah Hodgson and Stuart Withington from Flich Way Action Group. We are awaiting feedback from Claire.

Bench Replacement – The 4 benches for Great Hallingbury and Takeley Ward have been delivered. I have asked Felsted PC to fund 3 benches. They said they may be able to help partially fund one and they also directed me to 3 local councillors who I have requested funding from.

Little Dunmow land from ECC – Kevin French was unable to attend the meeting so it was unclear the precise piece of land in question.

AP35.2 Stan to ask Kevin French to submit proposal in writing so we can better comment.

Santa in the Carriage - We agreed to the event on Saturday 13 December. Approx 150 tickets will go on sale at £5. Morning 6 x 30 minute sessions between 10.00 and 1.00. Afternoon 5 x 30 minute sessions between 2.00 and 4.30. Half term starts 25 October.

AP35.3 Sandra to prepare Santa event posters and ticket page. Tickets will go on sale on 25 October.

Hedgehog Grove Solar farm – On 15 August 25 the company has decided to withdraw their national planning application and proceed via the district planning process so we await further details of their plans. The first new consultation details were issued on 8 September. We have been asked to participate in a community response group. Andy Hobster will be our representative.

Sylvia Jiggins – Stan paid tribute to the community work done by Sylvia who recently died. She was the warden of Phylis Currie Essex Wildlife Trust nature reserve and her voluntary work made a huge difference to the village of Rayne.

**Next meeting**

The next committee meeting will be on Monday 10 November at 2.00pm at Great Notley Country Park.

AP35.4 Sandra to book conference room for next meeting.

AP35.5 Stan will invite Terry Blyth and his wife to the Christmas lunch

AP35.6 Stan will start the process of getting the leaflets re-printed.

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chair thanked everybody for their contributions and brought the meeting to a close.