

**DRAFT**

Friends of Oakley Wood

**MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON MONDAY 18 MARCH 2019**

**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 (Website Manager)  
Susan Watt  
Keith Wellsted  
George Green (WWT)  
11 members of public

Apologies: Graham Leeke  
Cathy Kennedy (Membership Secretary)  
Karl Curtis (WWT)  
Jon Holmes (WDC)  
Moirra-Anne Grainger (portfolio holder)  
David Johnston (Newbold Pacey & Ashorne PC)

Minutes of the AGM held on 7 March 2018 were approved and adopted.  
Proposed by Keith Wellsted, seconded by Wendy Barlow.

Chairman's report:

Good evening everyone and welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> AGM of The Friends of Oakley Wood. Thank you for attending and thanks to Barford for allowing us to use their village hall. We are pleased to welcome George Green from WWT. Due to a calendar mix up Karl Curtis is unable to attend. The committee has held 4 meetings this year in our role to represent users of the Wood. During the meetings we are fortunate to receive a report from Karl. He outlines the latest thinking of WWT and WDC and reports on any progress relating the Management Plan which the Friends have been monitoring and discussing and which is not yet finalised.

We have an excellent website, managed by Chris Wood, with a feed from his web camera which he places in the Wood and moves periodically. There are some splendid still photos on the website from his galleries of flora, fauna, fungi and insects. Tonight we will see the video that Chris has compiled from his camera. Chris would very much welcome members of the public sending in their own

photos to add to the website. Also you can see the news about forthcoming events and how to join The Friends. We have been represented on Facebook since February 2018. Visiting the website, or looking at either of the information boards within the Wood, will reveal forthcoming events, news, how to join The Friends etc.

The events this year have included a walk and talk around the Wood from the renowned local ornithologist Colin Potter, drawing our attention to birds and birdsong. We also had a walk led by Karl Curtis who has a wealth of information to impart relating to woodland. George Green has led 6 work parties during the winter months. Please see the website for details of how to volunteer and check on the need to register with George for your first visit.

Our future plans relate to continuing to provide experts to lead our walks and impart their specialised information. The committee also plans to hold a woodland quiz in a format for families. There will be more information about this later in the year on the website and on the information boards.

I would like to thank all members of the committee, namely Keith Wellsted who joined us at last year's AGM, Judy Cooper, Wendy Barlow, Rod Scott, Chris Wood, Graham Leeke, Susan Watt and Cathy Kennedy, and Karl Curtis of WWT, for their expertise and support and in particular Judy, our wonderful Secretary, and Chris, who has literally put his back into work to try and improve the drainage on the south side of the Wood near the pond, and for all his time in placing and editing the digital camera.

We are always happy to have new members join The Friends and our committee. The meetings are held in a pub with a spot of lubrication at hand and we all find them a pleasure.

In conclusion, let us continue to support our Wood and in view of the threats of moths in oak trees, bleeding canker in horse chestnuts and ash die back. Let us hope that Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will soon be implementing the plan and planting more native British trees like field maple, hornbeam and lime. Very soon we will see the wood anemones, violets and celandines combining in their natural tapestry. Go out and enjoy our precious local wood.

#### Treasurer's report:

There have been only a small number of transactions this year. The balance as at 31 January 2019, the year end, stands at £304.66. (See the attached set of accounts.) Adoption of Accounts proposed by Chris Wood and seconded by Dan Sheehan.

#### Membership Secretary's report:

Unfortunately Cathy was unable to attend this meeting but we have nearly 500 members. Cathy and Chris are in the process of re-assessing the membership list to ensure it is up to date.

Web Manager's report:

There have been a couple of new postings recently. Future events will be posted so keep an eye out for information. There have been a large number of 'hits' from people visiting the website which is good to see.

Election of Officers:

The list as presented to the meeting (copy attached) was voted en bloc (with the correction to the spelling of Keith's surname). Proposed by Dan Sheehan and seconded by Michael Kirby.

Latest news on Oakley Wood from George Green (Reserves Officer at WWT):

From September to February work parties have successfully taken place with about 12 people attending and coffee and biscuits provided. If you would like to attend please visit the WWT website to complete the necessary registration form. There have been 2 sessions with Warwickshire College students learning coppicing. Last year Oakley Wood won a Green Flag Award and an inspection to continue with the Award is due soon. The Management Plan is with the Forestry Commission currently who seems happy that planned work will be carried out sensitively whilst accepting that there will be some disturbance in areas to be worked on.

Questions received from those present:

*Will The Friends be notified before any work commences?* Yes definitely

*What is the Green Flag Award?* The green space needs to be suitably maintained and to be accessible to young and old alike, to be of educational interest etc. More information can be found on the Green Flag website.

*Is the principle of WWT, guided by the Forestry Commission, to remove non-native trees?* Yes and also to remove or control invasive trees like sycamore. Supplementary planting will be looked at. It was noted that there are not many ash trees in the Wood.

*Is it usually the same people attending the work parties?* Yes generally. They are held between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm. Chris Wood added that good fun is had while carrying out useful jobs around the Wood.

*Are there any plans to carry out work at the main pond as it is rather overgrown in places and there is a large fallen tree across the pond which could, in the future, cause problems?* No specific plans but this could be a job for this winter's work parties. It is always helpful to hear of any such issues.

George said that should any Wood user become aware of any fly tipping, vandalism, etc then WWT should be notified.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.00 pm

Following refreshments we were treated to another compilation from Chris Wood's trailcam of the Secrets of the Wood when there is no-one around. This was completely fascinating seeing wildlife at work and leisure. Following the video, Chris had cleverly put together slides of wildlife to show their comparative sizes to each other and to a human which was very interesting and perhaps surprising. He left us with a question of a mystery sighting - was it a polecat or was it an owl or was it something else? Everyone present thanked Chris for his time and effort in compiling such a riveting video of our favourite local woodland.

## **Election of Officers**

Nominations have been received for the following Officers:

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

Other committee members:

Graham Leeke  
Susan Watt  
Keith Wellsted

# FRIENDS OF OAKLEY WOOD

Receipts & Payments Account - Year ended 31st January 2019

|                                      | 2018 - 2019    | 2017 - 2018     | 2016 - 2017    |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Opening balances - 1st February 2018 |                |                 |                |
| BANK                                 | £351.21        | £529.41         | £570.33        |
| PETTY CASH                           | £0.00          | £0.00           | £6.64          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>£351.21</b> | <b>£529.41</b>  | <b>£576.97</b> |
| <b>INCOME</b>                        |                |                 |                |
| Horse Logging Grant                  | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Membership -ordinary                 | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Membership - additional donations    | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Membership - group 1 at £5           | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Events                               | £0.00          | £0.00           | £15.50         |
| Woodland Craft Day                   | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Grants                               | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| AGM                                  | £32.23         | £0.00           | £20.00         |
| Bank Interest                        | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Miscellaneous                        | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>£32.23</b>  | <b>£0.00</b>    | <b>£35.50</b>  |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                      |                |                 |                |
| Horse Logging                        | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Woodland Craft Day                   | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Insurance                            | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Website                              | £23.98         | £0.00           | £33.56         |
| Publicity                            | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Events expenses                      | £0.00          | £20.00          | £0.00          |
| Secretarial                          | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| AGM costs                            | £54.80         | £158.20         | £49.50         |
| Miscellaneous                        | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| Bank Charges                         | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>£78.78</b>  | <b>£178.20</b>  | <b>£83.06</b>  |
| <b>Surplus / deficit for year</b>    | <b>-£46.55</b> | <b>-£178.20</b> | <b>-£47.56</b> |
| OPENING BALANCE less DEFICIT         | <b>£304.66</b> | <b>£351.21</b>  | <b>£529.41</b> |
| Closing balances - 31st January 2019 |                |                 |                |
| BANK                                 | £304.66        | £351.21         | £529.41        |
| PETTY CASH                           | £0.00          | £0.00           | £0.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>£304.66</b> | <b>£351.21</b>  | <b>£529.41</b> |

**Transactions**

Account 0892996533786000

Date From: 01/02/2018 To: 01/02/2019

| Date       | Description           | Bank Reference   | Customer Reference | Credit | Debit | Additional Information             | Running Balance |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 20/03/2018 | Own Account<br>Credit |                  |                    | 32.23  |       |                                    | 383.44          |
| 27/03/2018 | Cheque                | 7200559900200004 | 100078             |        | 30.80 | BENEFICIARY<br>ACCOUNT -<br>090395 | 352.64          |
| 31/05/2018 | Cheque                | 9203655500200010 | 100077             |        | 24.00 | BENEFICIARY<br>ACCOUNT -<br>407037 | 328.64          |
| 15/01/2019 | Cheque                | 0001743828870000 | 100079             |        | 23.98 | BENEFICIARY<br>ACCOUNT -<br>090132 | 304.66          |

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