

Minutes of AGM 2024

25 Clausentum Road on Sunday 28th April, 5.15 pm,
by kind permission of Christopher and Ann Balfour

Present: Jonathan Sleath (Chairman), Marian Hollingsworth (Treasurer), Ann Balfour, Fay Dunn, Emma Galloway, John Parry-Jones, Brian Millett, Tim Walker.

Apologies for Absence: Hilary Bailey, Stephania Greendyk, Anna-Maria Holt, Janet Rowland-White, Lysbeth Sleath, Clive Wood

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented a reconciliation of the 2023 accounts. Our financial position is broadly unchanged. Replacement of most tools is reimbursed by Winchester College in return for us hosting their community service volunteers. Non-reimbursed expenses included insurance, website fees and some scythe maintenance equipment which were covered by some generous donation from members during the year for which we are most grateful.

Health and Safety Policy/Risk Assessment

These were reviewed and some minor changes were made to the Risk Assessment.

Chairman's comments and discussion

Firstly, we noted formally the sad death during the year of Mike Gibbons, who was one of the founders of the CFCG and who was responsible for the site being designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. Mike had a great knowledge of birds but was interested in all aspects of natural history and held strong and passionate views about conservation and the Fen.

Our conservation priorities and activities have remained essentially unchanged. We work to enhance the biodiversity of Clausentum Fen by creating and maintaining a mosaic of habitats, whilst at the same time providing an attractive and interesting area for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors. We rely heavily on manpower provided by the group of Winchester College community service volunteers on a Wednesday afternoon who are invaluable in helping with strenuous work such as clearing some of the annual growth of reedmace and other invasive aquatic grasses to maintain open water in zone 3. Other notable work involves clearing dogwood from the heavily shaded Floodstoc stream to let in the light and rejuvenate this watercourse as a healthy vibrant chalkstream habitat.

Most of the work involves vegetation management which can be very heavy, but we have had some community workparties and a couple of sessions for local children. The current group

of adult helpers on a Wednesday are not getting any younger, and new blood would be very welcome.

Committee membership for 2024 including elections if necessary.

The current committee is willing to continue, and we were delighted to welcome John Parry-Jones as a committee member. John has extensive experience of practical conservation work with HIWWT and is a frequent and invaluable helper on Wednesday afternoons.

The committee voted in is as follows:

- Chairman: Jonathan Sleath
- Treasurer: Marian Hollingsworth
- Elected member: Ann Balfour
- Elected member: Anna-Maria Holt
- Elected member: Brian Millet
- Elected member: John Parry-Jones
- Elected member: Tim Walker

AOB

It was noted that some minor changes were required to the constitution, particularly in reference to bringing the stated accounting period in line with our current practice, which is on a calendar year basis.

Regarding the Wednesday afternoon sessions, we discussed the appropriate procedure if we were concerned about the behaviour of ones of the boys. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed amongst those CFCG members present before any approach was made to the master in charge.

Thanks and close

We thanked Christopher and Ann Balfour for their kindness in hosting us and for the most excellent refreshments.

Jonathan Sleath

CFCG Chairman

May 2024