

## Fordingbridge Conservation Group

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10th September 2019 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Fordingbridge

**Attendance:** Sue Bennett, Julie Grange, Edward Hale, Geraldene Kidd, Trevor Kidd, Helen Tague, George Ward, Jane Ward, Richard White

The meeting began at 19:35.

#### 1.0 Welcome and Apologies for absence

**Apologies for absence:** Graham Long

Jane welcomed members to the AGM and reported the sad news that Beryl Long had passed away; members offered their condolences to Graham.

#### 2.0 Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Jane referred to Graham's Chairman's Report last year.

There were no other matters arising from the Minutes of the 2018 AGM on 11th September 2018.

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted.

#### 3.0 Vice-chair's Report

Jane summarised the main points in her Annual Report, circulated separately. She said that Robert Aquilina had recently produced a species list of **small aquatic animals** found in the inflow and the pond itself (mostly beetles, plus other insects, molluscs, crustacea and worms) at Bishop's Pond (attached as an appendix to the Annual Report), which together with his previous list makes a total of 27 species identified, plus 9 flies less well identified. He had commented that this was a good number even for a permanent pond, let alone a temporary one. It is encouraging that the level of biodiversity is high.

The weather has not been ideal after the planting and sowing to enhance the **wildflower bank** on the left as you enter through the gate, but there are good hopes for its future. The bluebells are doing well on the **steep bank** alongside Normandy Way, after some bramble clearance. We are awaiting the imminent arrival of a bee hive for the **raised bank** on the west side of the pond, where some coppicing has made room for bee flight-lines.

Wild daffodils have been planted in the **woodland area** to the north-west of the pond. Last winter we received 100 bare-root hedgerow trees donated by the "I Dig Trees" scheme run by the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV), which were potted up, now awaiting planting this autumn to improve the hedge adjacent to Normandy Way at the far end of the reserve.

The Open Day before Christmas 2018 was a chance for members to talk at leisure, but did not attract any visitors, because of the very bad weather. The Open Day on 25 August 2019 was much more successful, with about 15 visitors. An Open Day in Spring 2020, when water is in the Pond, should be an attractive option.

Jane finished by thanking Bill and Ellen Heffer, Trevor Kidd, and Helen Tague for all their much appreciated hard work: all are taking well-deserved retirement from the Group. Very special thanks are due to Graham Long, without whom the Group would not have existed, who despite great difficulties wrote an excellent history of the Pond and has contributed so much else.

#### **4.0 Treasurer's Report**

Helen tabled a summary document for the financial year ending September 2019, and explained that it was straightforward, with £100.84 income from 18 members and donations. Outgoings consisted of membership of the TCV and expenses incurred by Jane in connection with tree-potting, "bee-bombs" and entry to the Damerham Show. The outgoings were higher than usual, resulting in a reduced balance of £673.81, but no cause for concern.

#### **5.0 Appointment of the Management Team**

Helen (Treasurer) has retired from the Management Team, and Sam Whitmarsh will be welcomed as a new member of the Team. Continuing members are Graham (Chairman), Jane (Vice-chair), Richard (Minutes Secretary), Edward (who agreed to take over as Treasurer) and Sue (who agreed to take on Publicity).

#### **6.0 Discussion on Working Party Frequency and Schedule**

It was agreed that the previous pattern of three meetings per month on non-consecutive Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays would continue, and the following dates were agreed (all from 2 to 4 p.m.): Wed 2nd, Sat 12th, Sun 20th October; Wed 6th, Sat 16th, Sun 24th November; Wed 4th, Sat 14th December; Wed 8th, Sat 18th, Sun 26th January; Wed 5th, Sat 15th, Sun 23rd February; Wed 4th, Sat 14th, Sun 22nd March; Wed 1st, Sat 11th, Sun 19th April.

#### **7.0 Any Other Business**

Trevor thanked the Management Team members, especially Jane who has been standing in for Graham when required. It was decided not to attend the Fordingbridge Christmas Shopping evening this year. Frogham Fair will not clash with Damerham Show in 2020, so the Management Team will decide later whether to attend both events.

The meeting closed at 20:25. Minuted by Richard White.