

# FRIENDS OF COOMBE WOOD



**Chairman** Gwyn Jordan  
**Treasurer** Terry Tokeley

**Secretary** John Rostron  
431 Kents Hill Rd.,  
Benfleet, Essex. SS7 4AD  
01268 757984  
johnmargaret.rostron@tiscali.co.uk

## **Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**Held at the John Pond Room, St Peter's Church Thundersley.**

### **Present**

Gwyn Jordan, Terry and Sandra Tokely, Terry Isherwood, Ted and Sue Speakman, Peter and Gill Hughes and Alan Morley.

### **Apologies**

John Rostron and Beryl Hayes

Note - Alan agreed to take the minutes for meeting in John's absence

### **1. Status of Meeting**

The Friends of Coombe Wood has been in abeyance since 2016 for a variety of reasons. However, in May this year, the old committee met to try to revive it. An interim committee was agreed with Gwyn Jordan as Chair, Terry Tokeley as Treasurer and John Rostron as Secretary. The interim committee agreed that we need to call an Extraordinary General Meeting, but to do this we need to give notice via a Newsletter (Newsletter 39 Summer 2019). This was done and was distributed to the existing Membership in July and August. The interim committee also agreed that we need to ask members to re-join, and a form for renewal was included with the Newsletter.

The interim committee recognizes that It does not have any validity until it is ratified by an Extraordinary General Meeting, hence this meeting.

## **2. Interim Chairman's Report**

Gwyn confirmed to be Chairman subject to formal election.

He pointed out the need to be vigilant on keeping an eye on the boundaries in the woods in particular on the pieces owned by the Council adjoining Lake Drive. Also there was a need to keep an eye on the possibility that an owner may take the opportunity to apply for deregistration. Membership with OSS will be important to ensure that any change in the law affecting village greens will be brought to our attention.

Responsibility of managing the woods is another important issue and also in having insurance cover. OSS have brought to our attention that the 1899 Act makes provision for the Local Authority to take or have some responsibility of management. If so achieved it would assist us in keeping a check on boundaries.

Actions for the committee – to check the likely costs of insurance (through David Harris or through Terry Isherwood contacts) and to find out who is the Councillor for St Peter's Ward in trying to establish the appropriate contact with the Council for pursuing the subject of management of the woods.

It was highlighted that if High Firs became available for sale FOC may be interested. Contact may be possible through Michell Connelly who is sister of Mark Evans' wife.

## **3. Financial Position**

Terry Tokely provided accounts at the meeting which reflected the position since the last AGM in 2016. The figures are based on the financial year running from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

There is a problem in keeping a track of regular payments of subscriptions as the account is not managed on-line. This is to be reviewed at the next meeting. There is also a need to check who should be the signatories for the account once the formal elections of the committee are approved.

It was noted that the costs of the FOC website have never been claimed by John and it was considered that this needs to be taken up with John.

It was noted that the main costs to FOC were printing, OSS membership but insurance cover may have to be taken into account at some later date.

## **4. Vote on the Continuation of Friends of Coombe Wood**

Proposed by Peter Hughes and seconded by Alan Morley.

All agreed.

## 5. Adoption of the Constitution

No proposals to change it at this meeting as formal notification has not been given but it was considered initially that the following rules may need amendment or deletion;-  
3.3, 3.5, 12, 13 and 17.

The committee to undertake a careful review of all the rules.

## 6. Election of Officers

The following officers were proposed, seconded and agreed.

Gwyn Jordan - Chairman proposed by Alan Morley, seconded by Terry Tokely

John Rostron - Secretary proposed by Terry Tokely, seconded by Peter Hughes

Terry Tokely - Treasurer proposed by Peter Hughes, seconded by Sandra Tokely

Terry Isherwood - Committee proposed by Sandra Tokely, seconded by Sue Speakman

**Note - Much appreciation was expressed by all present at the meeting for all the hard work that John had done for the committee and in his absence it was hoped that John would be prepared to continue on the committee in his current role. The vote of confidence was taken in anticipation that he would accept. It was hoped that he would recover quickly from his cold or flu.**

## 7. AOB

A fourth notice board for the woods was nearing completion and Gwyn will discuss its installation with Terry Isherwood. It is planned to site it near the graveyard entrance.

Until the insurance position is sorted then future litter picks should be put on hold for the moment.

Gwyn to pursue the best way to establish a contact point with the Council with a view to getting them involved according to the suggestion from Open spaces that under the Commons Act 1899 they could "make a scheme for the regulation and management" of a common.

The suggestion is that the next meeting should take place in 3 or 6 months time. (To be the Chairman's call but subject to the demands/requests of other committee members).

Alan suggested, when he vacated his chairmanship, that the documentation of FOC he handed over to Terry Isherwood should now be handed over to Gwyn.