



Friends of Rowley Hills

Minutes of AGM Wednesday 24th May 2017 at 7.00pm

Oakham Library, Poplar Rise, Tividale, Oldbury, B69 1RD.

Present

Committee Officers: Chair - Jayne Wilkinson JW, Secretary/Treasurer - Julie Buttery JB,
Vice-chair: Mike Poulton MP

Committee Members: Lynn Poulton LP, Bob Duncan RD, Andrew Cook AC.

Representatives from Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country: Simon
Atkinson SA, Thomas Hartland-Smith TH-S.

Membership: Josie Cook JK, Patrick Millard PM

JW opened the AGM at 7:10pm and read her Annual Report. Copies of minutes from the AGM on 4th June 2016 were circulated.

In view of JB's intention to resign as Treasurer/Secretary, LP and MP took the minutes of the meeting.

Apologies

Jane Tavener JT, Anthony Wilkinson AW

Declarations of Interest

None

Chair's Report

Delivered by JW (separate item)

Financial Report

Delivered by JB – no questions were forthcoming

Election of Officers

Resignations were given by JW and JB. JW also stated that AW wished to resign from the committee.

Chair – MP – seconded by AC

Secretary – no appointment made

Treasurer – RD – seconded by MP

Election of Committee

Committee members: LP, AC and JT agreed to continue.

Any Other Business

At this point JB and JW formally handed over all items relating to the Chair/Treasurer/Secretary posts to MP and RD. JB agreed to visit the bank in person on the following Saturday to have hers and JW's names removed as signatories from the Friends of Rowley Hills (FORH) bank account. RD as the newly appointed Treasurer is to take steps to become a new signatory on the bank account.

JC raised the point that some of the membership had not been contacted about the AGM and were unaware that it was taking place.

JW responded that in accordance with the wording as set out in the constitution, the AGM had been posted on the "News" page of the FORH website on April 26th, and a poster advertising the event had been put up in Oakham Library around the same date.

The committee however agreed to look at this and stated that in future, all who have provided their email addresses will be sent a reminder of the upcoming AGM.

In view of resignations from JW Chair, and JB Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Poulton read out a statement that he had previously circulated to the committee, in which he pointed out that the FORH group as it currently stands does not appear to be attracting input from local people, and he proposed that the group should become less formal with a simplified constitution. The aims of FORH are to promote and preserve the wildlife and open spaces on the Rowley Hills, and support the work of charitable groups which already exist including the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, Butterfly Conservation West Midlands, Black Country Geological Society etc. His statement also reminded those present that according to statistics provided by JT there is a growing interest being shown in the Friends of Rowley Hills website.

The committee were all in agreement with the proposals.

SA offered to look at the constitution on our behalf should the committee wish him to do so.

MP on behalf of the newly elected committee thanked JW, JB and AW for their services to FORH and brought the meeting to a close at 8:25pm.