



# Friends of Rowley Hills

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## Minutes of AGM Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 10:30am

Dudley Golf Club, Turner's Hill, Rowley Regis, B65 9DP

### Welcome

**MP** opened the AGM at 10:30am and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Julia Morris, a local resident, who attended the meeting, was introduced to the committee.

### Present

Committee Officers Chair – Mike Poulton **MP**, Treasurer – Robert Duncan **RD**, Webmaster - Jane Tavener **JT**

Committee Members Andrew Cook **AC**, Josie Cook **JC**, Andrew Beaton **AB**

Membership Julia Morris

### Apologies

Lynn Poulton **LP**, Natalie Norton (Wildlife Trust)

### Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Copies of the minutes of the previous AGM that took place on Saturday 17th August 2019 were circulated and accepted by the committee as a true record.

### Election of Officers

The Chair **MP**, Treasurer **RD** and Webmaster **JT** agreed to stand once again. The names of no other nominees were put forward.

### Election of Committee

Committee members: **AC**, **JC**, and **AB** agreed to continue. Through **MP**, **LP** has also agreed to continue.

The names of no other nominees were put forward.

### Annual Reports

Chair's Report Delivered by **MP**

Treasurer's Report`      Delivered by **RD**

Webmaster's Report      Delivered by **JT**

### **Any Other Business**

**MP** stated that he had received no word from Luke Holloway, the member of the committee from whom he had not received an apology, despite an invitation to the meeting being emailed to him. **AB** and **JC** said that he **they** would follow up this matter and try to contact him through Facebook. Until his standing as a committee member is resolved, it was agreed that no further action will be taken.

**MP** circulated a printout of land currently up for sale on Portway Hill. Two parcels of land, one to the rear of gardens in Kennford Close, and a second to the rear of houses in St Brades Close, are currently on sale through Rightmove with Taylor's Estate Agents in Dudley, at £125.000 for each plot. A more recent parcel of land, situated near to where the two main paths cross the hill, which in recent weeks has seen activity by surveyors, is to be auctioned with Halls Holdings Auctioneers, Shrewsbury on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**MP** raised the matter of the felled trees on the land currently up for sale with Taylor's at £125.000. This tree belt was originally planted when St Brades Close was built. The felled trees have since being cut down been left in situ and no attempt has been made to tidy up the area. Tividale Councillor Lorraine Ashman has been informed as the situation as it stands is clearly creating a fire risk. She informed **MP** that she would visit the area in question and look for herself.

**JC** and **AC** commented that residents in St Brades Close had also reported the tree felling to the council. Residents are concerned that the felled trees are now creating a fire risk. Additionally, some of the gardens have been exposed, creating a security risk problem.

**BD** said that the original path, now covered in tree debris has become impassable. A new path has been created around the felled trees, but this goes through the winter-wet boggy area, which as we move into the winter months, is likely to become impossible to negotiate. This matter is ongoing and has yet to be resolved.

**MP** commented on the continued cooperation of Sandwell Council in leaving most of the Bury Hill Park grassland uncut to benefit wildlife found in this area.

### **Trail Guides for Rowley Hills.**

**MP** explained to the committee that the £5,000 Grant received by FROW from GM2LF Big Local in March 2020, originally intended to be spent on Art and Craft projects with local schools in the area, because of covid lockdown restrictions, had now been extended into 2021. Earlier in the year the GM2LF committee had given approval for the funding to be spent on creating, designing, and printing a series of Trail Guides for Rowley Hills. The committee were invited to look at the display board draft of the Geology Trail Guide walk, set up by Graham Worton for this meeting. Earlier in the year **BD**, **MP**, and Graham Worton, had created the circular walk across Rowley Hills, with stopping points where features of the hills were explained.

A sample Geology trail guide of Wrens Nest was passed around the committee to show how the guide will open out to reveal a map with the route of each walk.

**JC** enquired as to how many copies of each trail guide would be printed and pointed out that most of the cost is in the design process and said that the more copies of each that were printed the less it will be for each copy.

**MP** said that numbers of copies to be printed would be discussed with Helen Trueman of GM2LF prior to any of the trail guides going to print.

Before concluding, thanks were given to the golf club for kindly allowing us to hold the meeting in their Members Room.

With no other business forthcoming the meeting was formally closed at 12:15pm

