**Friends of Ancells Farm (FOAF)**

**Minutes of their Annual General Meeting**

17th February 2014, Ancells Farm Community Centre, Fleet

**Attendees:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mike Barker | Stephen Gorys – Chairman, Hart District Council |
| George Woods – Fleet Town Council  | L Scorde |
| Enid Woods | Tim Carr |
| Chris & Ingrid Carr non-members | R Anthony |
| Anne Page non-member | Tim Sutcliffe |
| Pam & John Pullen | Diana Urquhart |
| Paul & Susie Woodman  | Ruth Jones |
| Adrian Bourne – non-member | Tei Jones |
| John & Ann Guerin - members | Jonathan Wright |
| Mr & Mrs M Chennells | Nigel Clinch |
| Stephen Parker – Hart District Councillor |  |
| Clare Hunton-Moore | **Committee:** |
| Mike Bye  | Simon Taylor |
| Karen Whyte | Isabella Paton |
| Mr & Mrs Fippard  | Lisa Nicholson |
| Ann Laves | Helen Newman |
| Russell Bray | Phil & Jackie Fahey |
| Sam Hallam Wright |  |
| Paula Clinch |  |

**Apologies:**

Natasha Barker, Nicola Saunders

**Welcome and Introduction**

Isabella Paton (Isy) welcomed everyone and made a short introduction to the AGM.

Isy noted Enid Woods’ name was missed off last year’s AGM minutes and apologised for this oversight. Subject to his amendment, last year’s AGM minutes were signed off as read.

Isy stated that the first part of the meeting concerned the FOAF AGM business and that discussions regarding the potential football pitch on the park will be held at the end of the meeting. Isy welcomed Phyl Ralton who was giving a presentation on the History of Ancells Farm later in the meeting entitled ‘Ancells Farm; Pigs, People & Polo’.

**Committee Report for Last Year**

Isy asked everyone to watch the rolling presentation of pictures taken during the last year of the various activities FOAF had been involved in whilst she talked through the committee report for the year, which included:

**Raising Profile and Membership**

FOAF wanted to ensure that people understood and perceive the group as cross-community and to raise their profile in order to raise membership, increase committee numbers and better serve the needs of the local community.

As a result, FOAF held a number of events to support this priority:

* Easter Egg Hunt
* Community Action Day
* Supported Falkners Arms Family Fun Day
* Picnic in the Park
* Back to School Pub Quiz
* Barn dance (a really big event targeting a different demographic)
* Halloween Party
* Carol singing around a Christmas Tree, with Cody Amateur Dramatic Society

Isy said a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with these events, particularly the Falkners Arms.

**Signage and Bins**

In the park, there was a survey of signs and bins. This resulted in getting new signs and more bins for the park. Fleet Town Council has a contract to litter pick daily in the park, so if you notice any rubbish please let the council know it hasn’t been cleared.

**Britain in Bloom / RHS It’s Your Neighbourhood**

Britain in Bloom – Fleet & Church Crookham in Bloom - FOAF won the Pegasus Cup for community involvement. We were also runners up for the Chairman’s Cup (which Friends of Oakley Park won, very deservedly).

RHS, It’s Your Neighbourhood campaigns for community involvement. FOAF sent in a detailed report on what we have done and FOAF have reached level 4 out of 5 which is an excellent achievement.

**Membership**

Isy said that our membership is looking healthy at 92. This compares favourably with the first year when we had 102. Membership is £5 per year, per household.

**Financial Report**

Isy confirmed that we had about £400 in the bank account, along with £1,000 allocated towards new benches. Large items of expenditure this year had been a 5 year subscription to the web site and public liability insurance.

**Priorities for 2014**

* Raising money to fund flat-seated swings and a basketball hoop. Cost approx. £3,000. We are trying to raise funds for these items, and grants have been applied for. We’ve raised about £1,000 so far, primarily from Fleet Lions’ Dragons Den.
* Buying new benches
* Thinking about the woods at the end of the park and perhaps making them more accessible, whilst respecting nature & conservation. FOAF have walked around the woods with a woodland specialist. He identified at least 25+ types of tree and some oak trees which were over 200 years old.

**Elections to the Committee**

**Chair -** Simon Taylorwas nominated by Lisa Nicholson, seconded by Helen Newman and duly appointed as Chairman.

**Treasurer**

Natasha Barker was happy to continue in her role as Treasurer.

**Membership Secretary**

Isy Paton was happy to continue in her role as Membership Secretary

**Committee Members**

Helen Newman, Lisa Nicholson, Nicola Saunders, Phil and Jackie Fahey were happy to continue as members of the committee.

Four additional volunteers came forward to help on the committee: Sam Hallam Wright, Jonathan Wright and Paula & Nigel Clinch. The committee welcomed them to the Committee.

**Secretary**

FOAF still do not have a secretary. Isy said we really need someone to come forward to fulfil this role, although she is happy to act in this capacity in the short term.

Post = vacant

**Questions**

Isy asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

**History Presentation**

We were all entertained by a fabulous presentation about the History of Ancells Farm. Thank you very much to Phyl and her husband for such a great insight. If anyone has any other information about Ancells’ past please can you contact Committee@ancellsfarm.org.uk, who will pass it onto Phyl as she would love to know about it.

**3G Football Pitch**

A lengthy discussion about the 3G football pitch on Ancells Farm was held, with many people querying the validity of the survey and how many votes people had. The financial validity was also queried by Clare Hunton-Moore following her research on the Sport England website, which suggested the pitch would cost £300k to build. The majority of those at the meeting were not in favour of a pitch on Ancells Farm Park, although some other members (not present) has confirmed their support for a pitch. A show of hands was held and 2 people voted for “something” (i.e. small or medium pitch), 34 voted against any pitch and 1 abstained.

It was noted for all that the council meeting to discuss the 3G pitch on Ancells Park was going to be on the 5th March. The public can speak for 3 minutes each and FOAF would be representing members’ views at this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 9.40pm