**Attendees:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Committee:** | **Other:** |
| Simon Taylor (Chairman) | George Woods |
| Helen Newman (Treasurer) | Enid Woods |
| Isabella Paton (Secretary) | Jonathan Wright |
| Jackie Fahey (Membership) |   |
| Oliver Hockman |  |

**Apologies:** None.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Simon welcomed everyone and made a short introduction to the AGM. Simon thanked Fleet Town Council for the free hire of the hall. There was a discussion regarding planned improvements to the Community Centre.

Last year’s AGM minutes were accepted and signed off. There were no matters arising.

**Committee Report for Last Year**

Simon talked through the update regarding the various activities FOAF had been involved in during the year. Report attached.

**Financial Report**

Helen read through the financial report for the year. Report attached.

**Elections to the Committee**

The following were agreed:

* **Chair -** Simon Taylorwas happy to continue in his role of Chairman.
* **Treasurer -** Helen to undertake role of Treasurer.
* **Secretary -** Isabella to undertake role of Secretary.
* **Membership -** Jackie to undertake role of Secretary, although she has stated that she wishes to hand over this role to a replacement as soon as one can be found.

**Committee Members** The Committee are working hard to encourage new members to join the Committee.

**Top Priorities for the forthcoming year**

It was agreed that the top priorities for the year should be:

* Encouraging new committee members to join
* Increasing membership & renewals of existing memberships
* Finishing the current project from the £8.4k grant received from Rushmoor Borough Council to:
	+ Wildlife trail, including bridges across the ditch
	+ Planted entrance area to the park
* fund raising for:
	+ a new fence around the under 5’s play park,
	+ a path around the top of the park,

There was a discussion regarding the under 5’s play area fence and how best to work with Fleet Town Council to achieve this. Jonathan Wright confirmed that the zip wire would be replaced shortly.

George Woods confirmed that Fleet Town Council were working on replacing rotten dragon’s teeth around the park and they were also working with the police regarding speedwatch on Ancells Road.

The Committee expressed their thanks to members, Rushmoor Borough Council and also to Fleet Town Council, Tesco and the Falkners Arms for their support during the year.

**Friends of Ancells Farm - Committee Report to the AGM – 2018/2019**

It has been a busy and interesting year for FOAF, with a very small group of volunteers making up our Committee.

We have used £2k of the Farnborough Airport Environmental fund grant obtained in 2017 to plant more hedges and to plant a new entrance area on the Farm Drive side of the park. The rest of the grant has been spent on developing and installing a wildlife trail comprising 6 brass rubbing posts and 3 large information boards. Two bridges have been installed in the park to link the playing fields and woods as well as the wildlife trail. The installation of the bridges was funded by a grant of £2,900 from Fleet Town Council.

We have also been fund raising to extend the path along the far end of the playing field, replace the fence around the under 5’s park and install staggered barriers at the Farm Drive entrance. Despite some good success in fundraising, these are a costly projects and will take some time longer to reach our target.

Photos of our events are shown on our website, notice board, Facebook & Twitter. These included:

* An **Easter Egg Hunt**
* **Planting** days

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this work and these events, including the Falkners Arms for allowing us to use the pub as a venue, Fleet Town Council, Rushmoor Borough Council and Hart District Council and Cllr Adrian Collett for their funding and other support.

Our particular thanks this year go to Laura Dobson and Magda Pascoe, who rallied the community in order to ensure that our annual Easter egg hunt could continue. This had previously been threatened due to lack of volunteer support, but we are proud to be part of a community that pulled together so enthusiastically when called upon. **Thank you!**

We again entered the **It’s Your Neighbourhood campaign from the RHS.** We have maintained our Level 4 ‘Thriving’ level in IYN for 2018.

**Membership** in 2018 was sadly looking less healthy than previous years. Membership at March 2019 was only 27 members, (2018 was 61 members), however we’re pleased to report that in 2019 we have already succeeded in bringing the numbers back up slightly and they currently stand at 40. Memberships renew from 1st April. We are reminding those who have not paid their £5 fee that these are now due. We are always striving to reach new members and work on this will continue. Any help on addressing this problem and publicising FOAF, would be very much appreciated.

**Committee Structure** – Current committee members are Simon Taylor (Chairman), Isabella Paton (Secretary), Helen Newman (Treasurer), Jackie Fahey (Membership) and Oliver Hockman. We are looking for a new membership secretary and also new committee members to strengthen our committee and allow us to continue the work that we’re doing. We have a number of roles that need filling on the committee and we would welcome new members to ensure that these roles are shared out as much as possible. Vacant positions include fundraising and webmaster.

**Projects for 2019**

* Fund raising for new fencing round the under 5’s play area and for a path around the far side of the playing field.
* Publicity and increasing membership
* Organising this year’s events – to promote community on Ancells Farm and also to have some fun!

**Friends of Ancells Farm Financial Report year to 31st March 2019**

This report covers the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

Due to a limited number of committee members we have had a relatively quiet time on the fundraising front. The annual Easter Event, which took place on 30th March 2018, generated a total profit of **£452.50** which was banked in this financial year. As in previous years the Easter Eggs were generously donated by the Falkners Arms and Tesco, with raffle prizes also generously donated by Café Lusso and Ancells Fish & Chips.

The Hart Lottery is a valuable funding stream for Friends of Ancells Farm. It started during the summer of 2017 and is a steady, monthly contribution. This year the Hart Lottery has generated **£451.00** of funds. I would like to thank everyone who has signed up to Hart Lottery to support Friends of Ancells Farm for their continued commitment, and wish them the best of luck – I hope one of our supporters wins the jackpot £25,000 soon!

We have received grants from TAG and Fleet Town Council for **£6,628.84** and **£2,900** respectively, totalling **£9,528.84** for our park improvements. Of this, we have spent **£7,380.29** on the wildlife trail and entrance area improvements. Bridges have been installed across the ditches. The installation cost of £2,900 is funded by the Fleet Town Council Grant, and will be paid in the next financial year. The purchase cost of the bridges (£1,600) will be reclaimed from TAG, also included in the next financial year.

The balance in the bank account at 31st March 2019 was **£5,568.55**.

All funds have been transferred out of the Lloyds bank account into the HSBC bank account.

There is an amount of **£55.99** in the Paypal account relating to membership subscriptions payments.

Therefore the adjusted period end balance is **£5,624.54**