**Attendees:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Committee:** | **Other:** |
| Isabella Paton (Secretary) | George Woods |
| Helen Newman (Treasurer) | Jonathan Wright |
| Jackie Fahey (Membership) |  |

**Apologies:** Simon Taylor, Sara Lacy, Stephen Parker.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Helen held a short quiz about Ancells Farm.

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

**Committee Report for Last Year**

Isabella 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.

**Committee Members** The Committee are working hard to encourage new members to join the Committee. Recently 2 new Committee members have joined.

**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 finalise the 2nd planted entrance area to the park
* fund raising for:
  + a new fence extension around the under 5’s play park and work with Fleet Town Council to replace the existing fence,
  + a path around the top of the park to link the pavilion, wildlife trail, bridge and new planted entrance at the far end of the park.
* It was noted that 2020 is FOAF’s 10 year anniversary and it would be great to hold an event to mark this, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

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.

Meeting close 20.50hrs

**Friends of Ancells Farm - Committee Report to the AGM – 2019/2020**

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

We have used all of our £8496 of the Farnborough Airport Environmental fund grant first obtained in 2017 to plant more hedges and to plant a new entrance areas on the Farm Drive side & far end 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 will be planting the final plants in the far side entrance area this summer as soon as Covid-19 restrictions allow.

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.

In March 2020 we were successful in an award of £1,166.00 from Tesco Bags of Help and we are grateful to both our local Tesco and everyone who voted for us.

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

* An **Easter Egg Hunt** in April 2019
* A **Gratitude Scavenger Hunt** at Easter 2020
* **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 for their funding and other support.

Our particular thanks this year go to Magda Pascoe for organising the Gratitude Scavenger Hunt. **Thank you!**

After a break in 2019 we again entered the **It’s Your Neighbourhood campaign from the RHS.** We have maintained our Level 4 ‘Thriving’ level in IYN for a number of years.

**Membership** in 2020 was slightly increased on 2019, but still sadly looking less healthy than previous years. Membership at March 2020 was only 40 members, (2019 27 and 2018 61 members), however we’re pleased to report that in 2020 we are focusing on publicity and membership with the aim of increasing those numbers further. 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 secretary, 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.

We are pleased to confirm two new committee members, Sara Lacy and Laura Lewis – welcome to our Committee!

**Projects for 2020**

* Creating new entrance area with plants purchased under Farnborough Airport Environmental fund grant.
* 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 events – to promote community on Ancells Farm and also to have some fun!

**Friends of Ancells Farm Financial Report year to 31st March 2020**

This report covers the period 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020.

Due to a limited number of committee members we have had another relatively quiet year on the fundraising front. The annual Easter Event, which took place on 19th April 2019, generated a total profit of **£450.90.** We also collecteda further **£95.00** in memberships at the Easter Event. As in previous years the Easter Eggs were generously donated by the Falkners Arms and Tesco, with raffle prizes also generously donated by Ancells Fish & Chips and committee members.

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 **£367.00**, which is down £84.00 from last year. 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 – some of our supporters have won free entries and small prizes, but no one has yet won the jackpot £25,000.

Total collections for membership this year is **£198.14**, paid by cash, cheque, Paypal and bank transfer. We would like to encourage people to use the standing order form. Further information is available on our website <http://www.ancellsfarm.org.uk/> . Check out the membership page.

This year we have been busy continuing with our planned park improvements, spending the grant funding received from TAG and Fleet Town Council last year. We have spent **£4,778.82** on the bridges from the money set aside last year, and **£358.66** on planting in the park. We have also received further funds from TAG for **£1,866.67** for our park improvements.

The balance in the bank account at 31st March 2020 was **£3,230.64**.

There is an amount of **£83.14** in the Paypal account relating to 2019/20 membership subscriptions payments.

Therefore the adjusted period end balance is **£3,313.78.**