

Minutes of Halsey Field AGM 18th March 2022

Welcome
Chris Ridley thanked all for coming, and for the work done by them to improve Halsey Field
Present
Chris and Mike Ridley, Dennis Furnell, Matt Morton, Sherief Hassan, Suzanne Watts, Anthea Lovatt, Juliet Chodzko, Grant Thorne, Diane Wilson, Stephen Wilson, Steve Lings, Katie Tyssen, Barry Watson
Apologies For Absence
Janine Chamberlain, Gruff Edwards, Phil Byford, Fiona Guest, Jennie Leslie.
Acceptance of last year's Minutes
Accepted by all as correct.
Matters Arising from last year's minutes
<i>Re: Boxmoor Trust taking over the site:</i> DF said that our proposal was looked on favourably by Mr Kirk and DF himself of Boxmoor Trust, but the Trust could not afford to buy the site. MR said when Mr Kirk was well enough to have a meeting, he would ask Fiona Guest to call a mtg between Herts CC and Boxmoor Trust, to see what might be done. CR thought that as David's treatment is going to be rather lengthy, he may not be well enough to join a meeting for some time and therefore perhaps another strategy would be better.
<i>New Locality Plan,</i> the latest guess at when the revised plan will appear, is June 2023
<i>Re: Developer Fairfax's proposals for housing near the site.</i> Dacorum BC has recently put a moratorium on housing development, due to threats to visitor pressure on Ashridge and the Chilterns. It may be that excessive footfall may be also used as a reason to deny Fairfax's proposals. Clarification needed. Apparently DBC Planning Dept has been in discussions with Fairfax about a revised application. SW said that further housing could increase flood risk on the River Gade. Developers are also talking of changing the status designation of the Leighton Buzzard Road. The Dacorum Environmental Forum may ask a DBC Planning Officer to report on the proposed moratorium on new house building, whether it is Dacorum-wide. A letter from Halsey Trustees, about the Fairfax planning application will be submitted when appropriate by MR.
<i>Website Improvements.</i> It was decided that the Dacorum Environmental Forum website, with its Halsey Field links, was sufficient for our needs. Kate Tyssen will update information about the Halsey Field onto the DEF website as needed.
<i>Cheque Signatories.</i> It was agreed that a fourth signatory was needed. The AGM approved this. Stephen Wilson was chosen; proposed Sherief Hassan, seconded Steve Lings. Action: Treasurer. MR
Chairmans's Report
See copy presented separately. At the meeting CR said the Scouts and Beavers now had copy of leaflets. DW said she will get a leaflet to Stonecroft. BW said DBC is not able to distribute leaflets for us, we must contact Community Centres etc directly ourselves. Re: children's leaflet, DF suggested children could design this or be involved; further discussion to take place at next committee mtg.
Treasurers Report.
See attached copy. DF suggested again that a pond was needed. Unfortunately, Ciaran Mullen from CROWS has been seriously ill recently, but CR to raise this when Ciaran is better.
Election of Trustees/Committee Members
All the existing committee members have agreed to continue, and no new names were put forward. The existing trustees were re-elected 'en masse' Proposed: Juliet C; Seconded Anthea L.

Presentation by Steve Lings on solitary bees

Fascinating as always. Once again the value of the site, and Steve's monitoring of it, were really apparent. 89 spp of bee have been recorded on site. Ivy bees from Europe, spreading into the UK, have been seen. SL pointed out that the unobtrusive solitary bees are c. 180 x more efficient than bumble bees, and honey bees, in pollinating flowers.

SL agreed to send CR a species list of all the solitary bees he had found on the site.

Presentation by Matt Morton on Birds

Another stimulating presentation. MM said there are about 80 spp of birds to be seen on Halsey Field and in this area, and the site is excellent for them. They include Mistle Thrushes, Song Thrush, Fieldfares and Redwings, Siskins, Bullfinch, Firecrests, Barn Owls (Visiting only, but nesting nearby) Tawny owl, Chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Blackcap, Garden warbler (but no grasshopper warbler), Yellowhammer, and cuckoo.

Any other business.

Safe storage of power tools mentioned after the meeting. Insurance and security to be considered at a committee meeting.

End of Meeting