

Friends of Lavell's Lake AGM

Charity Number: 297074

Dinton Pastures on Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 7.30 pm

Present: Fraser Cottington (Chairman), Peter Scudamore (Treasurer), Jane Campbell (Secretary), Ron Bryant, Bob Bennett, Renton Righelato, Phil Kinch, Simon Bartlam and 10 other members.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Les Blundell, David Fuller, Maria Kinch and Richard Stajack.
2. **Approval of the minutes from 2016:** Incorrect minutes (from 2015 not 2016) were shown at the meeting in error. The minutes of the AGM held on January 19th 2016 have been publicly available on the FOLL website for a year and no comments have been received. In addition 2016 AGM minutes were emailed to committee members after the AGM and the following comment was made:

Item 4: Les Blundell should not be listed as remaining in post.

3. 2016 Reports

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Copies were provided. Peter highlighted some points which were:
 - Gift Aid submissions have been claimed for 2012 and 2013. Claims are still outstanding for 2014, 2015 and 2016.
 - Less funds were raised from donations and walks this year.
 - The WhatsApp birdline service is popular.
 - The Waitrose 'green token' cheque for £120 was finally banked.
 - By purchasing insurance direct from Zurich our premiums are lower than last year with improved cover.
 - Peter thanked Delia Allott for inspecting the last two years of FOLL's accounts and confirmed she will do so again.
 - There are 32 more memberships this year than last.
2. **Countryside Service Report:** Simon Bartlam's report was sent out in advance of the meeting. In addition:
 - Simon stated that there is a positive relationship between FOLL and his team.
 - He asked for advice on maintaining the sand martin walls as they are largely unused. After some discussion it was decided we would research best practise.
 - Fraser thanked Simon for his hard work at Lavell's Lake and elsewhere, for his prompt remedial action following vandalism at Bittern Hide and for his continued support.
3. **Chairman's Report:** This was sent to all members of the group in advance of the meeting.
 - Fraser showed drawings and explained FOLL's plans for work that amongst other things will re-profile tern scrape and extend reedbeds. FOLL is optimistic that its application to Thames Water for a grant of £15,750 will fund this project.
 - The website members' area is now live and Mailchimp used to communicate with FOLL's members.
 - Our Facebook page will be replaced by a group which will allow better interaction by members. It is intended to post regular pictures and updates of events.

- Fraser reminded members of the FOLL bird news service via WhatsApp and of his own personal blog.
- FOLL needs to make plans for the longer term regarding Lea Farm. While we have no reason to believe that Summerlease have any intention to change the current arrangements, we do not have any formal agreement with them at the moment. We believe they are likely to offer a 5 year lease term, after which it would need to be renewed.
- Increasing family membership by offering suitable events could raise significant funds.

4. Election of Officers

The following officers are remaining in post:

Chairman: Fraser Cottington

Secretary: Jane Campbell

Les Blundell remains as Membership Secretary

Peter Scudamore resigned as Treasurer and Phil Kinch resigned as a committee member.

Phil Kinch was elected as Treasurer, proposed by Fraser Cottington and seconded by Renton Righelato

Other committee members remaining in post are Ron Bryant, Renton Righelato and Bob Bennett.

Peter Scudamore and Kevin Burgess were elected as committee members.

AOB

- It was requested by Bob Bennett that Mailchimp is used to send more reminders of meetings.
- Wokingham Winter Carnival was suggested by Ian Paine as an event FOLL could attend.

The AGM was followed by refreshments and a very enjoyable and bird packed talk by Ray Reedman on Australia's Northern Territory.

AGM 2018 is at 7.30 on Tuesday January 16th, venue to be confirmed.