

Friends of Lavell's Lake AGM

Charity Number: 297074

Dinton Pastures on Tuesday 16th January 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present: Fraser Cottingham (Chairman), Phil Kinch (Treasurer), Jane Campbell (Secretary), Les Blundell, Ron Bryant, Bob Bennett, Peter Scudamore, Kevin Burgess and 24 other members.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Renton Righelato, Simon Bartlam, Michael Rea, Bridget Gurney, Malcom Dowty, David Fuller, Valerie Pickersgill, Cathy Stillman-Lowe, Gerard Pillai, Anne Cronin, Stuart Aitkin, Simon Heffer, Gray Burfoot, Paul O'Neill, Alan Baggs, Trevor Woodage, Nick Edwards, Peter Anderson, Liz Crathorne and Irene Gilder.
2. **Approval of the minutes from 2017:** The minutes of the AGM held on January 17th 2017 have been publicly available on the FOLL website for a year and no comments have been received. The minutes were proposed as an accurate record by Bob Bennett and seconded by Phil Kinch.

3. 2017 Reports

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Phil talked through his report and highlighted some points as follows:
 - The year-end cash balance is higher than might be expected but we still need to finish the Lavell's project which is likely to cost about another £9,000
 - Gift Aid claims are up to date.
 - Three generous donations were received but it was noted that in general donations are down this year.
 - The WhatsApp birdnews service is popular.
 - Our constitution requires an accounts review and Delia Allott will once again provide this service. However, as the end of our financial year is so close to the AGM's date it has been impossible to have this done for the AGM.
 - A member will be walking the Ridgeway to raise funds for FOLL and a 'MyDonate' donation page has been set up.
2. **Membership Report:** Les reported the following:
 - 40 new members joined last year. Most joined via the website and it was noted that fewer people donate when joining in this way though many subscribe to BirdNews. We are working on making this a more seamless experience and to encourage donations.
 - 38 members left us and approximately 25 still owe fees.
 - Family membership has increased.
3. **Chairman's Report:** This was sent to all members of the group in advance of the meeting. Fraser highlighted the following:
 - He thanked Phil Kinch for his work to obtain the Thames Water grant. The work on the Lavell's project is well under way and Thames Water are excited by what has been done.
 - Other work FOLL would like to do includes the stock fencing of Middle Marsh, Herons' Water and Sandford's east and south sides; the repair of Sandford Lake's paths; to install a sluice; to create a viewing area in the car park field and a bittern watch point at White Swan Lake.
 - Ron Bryant has made an offer to purchase Lea Farm GP that has been accepted. FOLL is extremely thankful and members showed their appreciation with a resounding round of

applause. FOLL has taken legal advice and will become a CIO named Lavell's Wetland Trust to enable it to manage LFGP in the future.

One member asked if there is to be another meeting to agree to change FOLL into a CIO. Fraser informed the meeting that an extraordinary general meeting will be called to propose changes to FOLL's membership.

- Fraser would like to raise our profile with increased marketing and use of social media. He noted that a few members have offered help and assured them we will be in touch.

4. Election of Officers

Executive Officers

Chairman: Fraser Cottington re-elected 2018, proposed by Brian Bennett, seconded by Mike Dyer

Secretary: Jane Campbell, (elected 2016 for 3 years until 2019)

Treasurer: Phil Kinch, (elected 2017 for 3 years until 2020)

Elected Committee Members

Bob Bennett, (re-elected 2018 for 3 years until 2021)

Ron Bryant, (re-elected 2018 for 3 years until 2021)

Peter Scudamore, (elected 2017 for 3 years until 2020)

Renton Righelato, (re-elected 2018 for 3 years until 2021)

Kevin Burgess, (elected 2017 for 3 years until 2020)

Non-Executive Officer

Membership Secretary: Les Blundell, (elected 2016 for 3 years until 2019)

AOB

- It was requested by Bob Bennett that bird sightings are reported to him via BirdNews@foll.org.uk for inclusion on our website.
- Brian Bennett asked if the layby can be re-instated.
- Les asked members to respond when we contact them regarding GDPR. Otherwise we will not be able to communicate with them.
- A vote of thanks was proposed to Fraser for his continued enthusiasm, hard work and commitment.

The AGM was followed by refreshments and a very enjoyable talk by David Massie on birding in Taiwan.

AGM 2019 is at 7.30 on Tuesday January 15th, venue to be confirmed.

Attendees

Mr	Tim	Alexander
Mr	Ian	Paine
Mr	Mike	Turton
Mr	Brian	Bennett
Mr	Ron	Bryant
Mr	Fraser	Cottingham
Mr	Geoff	Emmett
Mr	Alan	Rymer
Mr	John	Allin
Mr	Bob	Bennet
Mr	Les	Blundell
Mr	Kevin	Burgess
Miss	Jane	Campbell
Mr	Jon	Cole
Mr	Mike	Drye
Ms	Angela	Gunn
Mr & Mrs	Philip & Maria	Kinch
Mr	David	Massie
Mr	Sean	Mitchell
Mr	Edward	Napper
Mr	David	Noble
Mr	Peter	Ralph
Mr	Peter	Scudamore
Mr	Roger	Stansfield
Mr	Andrew	Stickland
Miss	Jenny	Vaughan
Mr	Ralph	Watts
Ms	Sue K B	White
Mr	Geoff	Wilde
Mr	David	Williams-Jones