



Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Friends of Warneford Meadow, held at 7.00pm on 2nd June 2009 at The Community Hall, Cheney School

Steering Group

Present: Andrew Carter (Chair), Graeme Salmon, Sietske Boeles, David Sutton

Apologies: Chris Dunabin, Jo Aldhouse, Rupert Griffin

In addition, 29 Members of FoWM attended.

Minutes of AGM 2008

A brief reflection on these minutes was an opportunity to note how progress had continued in the twelve months since last year's AGM

Annual Report 2009

A review of this year's Annual Report focussed on the following points:

- After a lengthy Inquiry into Paul Deluce's application to have Warneford Meadow and Orchard registered as a Town Green, the Inspector, Vivian Chapman, recommended that registration should go ahead. OCC Planning and Regulation Committee have since voted to accept the Inspector's recommendation. However, registration has been delayed while objectors consider whether to apply for a judicial review of the Report.
Since the AGM, Oxon and Bucks Mental Health Foundation Trust have notified OCC of the NHS's intention to seek judicial review.
- FoWM are exploring other avenues for preserving the Meadow and Orchard from development. The County Wildlife Panel have given the Orchard temporary status as a Local Wildlife Site. FoWM are actively campaigning to change the designation of the Meadow and Orchard in the Local Development Framework.
- FoWM Steering Group, jointly with local residents associations, have set up a separate working party – the 'Warneford Meadow: What Next?' group – to consider and draw up plans for the maintenance and development of the site as a Town Green.
- The strong support offered by other organisations, particularly the local residents associations, was noted with gratitude.

Questions arising from the Annual Report concerned the identity of the objectors to the Town Green application and the procedure that would follow a request for judicial review. Also clarified was the status of the 'Warneford Meadow: What Next?' group, which is a sub-group convened by and reporting to the FoWM Steering Group.

Annual Accounts

Graeme Salmon presented the FoWM accounts for the year to 28th February 2009. These indicated an excess of income over expenses of £2309.83 for the year. Accounts had been scrutinised by the Honorary Auditor, Alison Williams.

David Sutton reported on the appeal to raise funds to pay for the cost of the Paul Deluce's Town Green application. Since the Appeal was launched, £46,853.19 has been raised. An outstanding bill for legal work leaves over £2,000 still to raise.

In subsequent questions, it was confirmed that the Appeal Fund would be wound up once registration as a Town Green has been completed. Following the objectors' decision to seek judicial review, this is no longer imminent. There will now also be further legal costs arising from a judicial review.

Amendments to the FoWM Constitution

Two additions were made to the objectives of the organisation:

'Objective 6: to promote and provide green care activities such as health walks and green gym on the Meadow and in the Orchard'

'Objective 7: to develop environmental education in relation to the Meadow and Orchard by giving talks, guided walks and encouraging community involvement in projects such as reptile and moth surveys'

Both additions were accepted *nem con* by the meeting. Volunteers were sought for help with wildlife surveys.

The following proposal was tabled concerning the definition of FoWM membership: 'In addition to those who have paid a membership fee of £3, anyone who has donated to Friends of Warneford Meadow within the membership year should also be deemed to be members of FoWM.'

This amendment was accepted *nem con* by the meeting.

Steering Group

Of the current members of the Steering Group, Graeme Salmon, Chris Dunabin, Andrew Carter and David Sutton were happy to continue. Jo Aldhouse and Rupert Griffin have decided to leave the Group. Their hard work and support were noted with gratitude.

Sietske Boeles, whose energy and vision has been a vital element in driving the Warneford Meadow campaign, has expressed a wish to become less directly involved with the work of the Steering Group. She will therefore hand over co-ordination of the Steering Group to Andrew Carter, but will remain a group member. The meeting enthusiastically thanked Sietske for her past work and achievements.

Elizabeth Mills and Anne Copley were nominated to fill the vacancies on the Steering Group and their appointment was endorsed by the meeting.

Following the objectors' decision to seek judicial review, Sietske has been asked to continue as Co-ordinator until the beginning of August 2009.

Fundraising

The meeting was reminded of the ways in which FoWM funds are raised.

Warneford Meadow notecards have been selling well. They provide images and a brief text demonstrating the motivation behind the campaign. A commemorative mug will shortly be available showing some of the varieties of apple growing in the Orchard. FoWM continues to mount fundraising events which maintain awareness of the campaign as well as bringing in much needed funds.

However, these activities are not enough to raise the money required to ensure that the Meadow and Orchard are registered as a Town Green, so there will be the need for a direct fundraising campaign during the summer of 2009.

The AGM closed at 8.00pm and was followed by a presentation by directors of the East Oxford Archaeology History Project.