

# FRIENDS OF CARPENTERS WOOD

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 2nd September 2010 at 1.30 pm

At 28 Carpenters Wood Drive

**Present:** Tony Edwards , Lesley Edwards, Barbara Green (Chair), Barbara Christie, Stephen Ramsay (Treasurer), Bob Hubbard, Donald Maclean (Vice-Chair).

1. Appointment of New Secretary

Martha Bramley resigned the post due to other commitments. Lesley Edwards was proposed by BG and seconded by BC and voted by all.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed.

3. Matters Arising

BC said that she would like more detailed costing of items requiring funding e.g. cost of courses, leaflets etc. BG said that Herts CC via CMS had financed the leaflets, and we had met the cost of courses which Friends had attended from our own funds (half being paid by attendee and half by Friends). BC also asked if we were pursuing the idea of young people on probation to carry out certain work in the Wood e.g. removal of rabbit fence. BG had agreed with Alex Lurie that this was being organised by CMS but would check out what was happening. **(Action BG)**

Dog fouling is still a problem, particularly at the Whitelands Avenue entrance, despite new 'no fouling' notices. Old green dog bin has been removed and replaced and new litter bins provided.

SR and TE attended a Brush Cutter Course and TE completed a First Aid Course last April.

A very successful visit from John Morris on 3rd June, 2010 which was well attended. The intended mapping of the wood has not been started as yet.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented his written report. Overall, a modest year financially. The Christmas stall was a great success raising £57 and the John Morris walk

elicited a few contributions amounting to £30. £45 was added to this amount to provide a £75 donation to the Chiltern Society to thank John for his talk.

The Hedge management course which was attended by three of the Friends was not felt to be as relevant as the Tree Management Course attended previously but it did lead to the contact with John Morris.

SR said that the tools and equipment we have are adequate and in good condition but the gloves may need to be replaced.

We have 5,000 information leaflets for Carpenters Wood and it was suggested that a leaflet drop on the Bucks side of Shire Lane would raise awareness. An insert for the leaflets to be prepared to encourage people to donate/get involved. (**Action SR**). It is hoped to get these leaflets delivered by October but if this isn't possible it was felt better to leave until next year.

We have received £700 funding from Parish Council and a leisure grant from TRDC of £500 towards the purchase of a brush cutter. As we need to fund payment of courses etc we had tried to raise money by asking members for a yearly donation of £5; this has not been successful. It was thought important to show TRDC that we are actively striving to raise funds.

## 5. Report on Progress of Volunteer Group

The volunteers carried on with twice monthly meetings, the last one being on 19th June, there being a break during July and August. It was felt this led to membership dropping off and we should either keep going throughout the Summer next year or have a shorter break. Delegation of organising meetings and access to tools would help to make this easier.

BC asked what overall guidance we are receiving from CMS. It was felt that more specific planning of work to be carried out and end results hoped for would be something to aim for. It was hoped that the proposal to implement the Laurel felling this year would be carried out but as yet this has not happened. There was a general consensus that TRDC were not doing enough to support us and there was no representative at this AGM to take our concerns on board.

Regarding the Five Year Plan, BC asked what happened to our funding if the work on the Larch thinning wasn't completed. BG thought it was probably siphoned off somewhere else and she would be in touch with TRDC as soon as Julie Hughes was back next week (**Action BG**). SR suggested that we record our work from 1st September and said that the more the volunteer group did, the less TRDC involvement seemed to be. We should be receiving more support from TRDC because of our involvement not less.

On a positive note, notice boards were under discussion for erection at the entrances to the Wood, new waste bins and dog waste bins are in place. All the way-markers were recently up-graded and have been washed and repainted by volunteers.

There has been no contact from Daniel Monk to progress tree felling. The thinning of the Larch and Ash is now a year behind schedule. What thinning had been carried out in the Spring was, apparently, a “training exercise”. SR suggested that one or two of our volunteers were trained and enabled to use a chain-saw so that heavier work could be carried out by the Friends. This would dramatically cut down the time spent working with hand equipment. BG to enquire about the possibility of this. (**Action BG**)

BG said that the Five Year Plan was drawn up before the Friends Group was involved and it should be taken back to Julie Hughes so that we are all clear as to what we are working toward.

BG to let us know the best way of putting pressure on TRDC as we were all very unhappy with their contribution towards the woodland maintenance. BG also to talk with Alex Lurie regarding CMS support – a walkabout is planned for next Thursday’s session on 30<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the next year’s tasks.

There was discussion about tree stumps protruding (as a result of volunteers cutting down holly trees etc) being a trip hazard to us and walkers. Various options were put forward. It was decided that this should be discussed with CMS (**Action BG**).

7. Green Flag/Pennant

After discussion, it was felt that this would be unsuitable for our Wood and should not be followed through as the Friends would be expected to take on too much responsibility.

8. Website

The website is interesting and it changes as work is carried out by volunteers. Photographs are updated as well. BG suggested that we include the Treasurer’s report on the site. Everyone agreed the website was worthwhile. The cost is £41 every two years. DM is happy to continue with his work in this regard, and everyone thanked him for his contribution.

9. Events

Village Day had not been possible for The Group this year as we were not fully prepared but it was hoped we would take part next year. BG asked if we thought the Christmas Evening should be repeated and it was decided that we should go

ahead with this. TE suggested that we have a banner produced, large enough to string across the front of a gazebo. This could be used for any future fund raising occasions. (**Action TE**).

On the 13th November, 2010 Chorleywood Parish Council are donating the Memorial Hall for an evening to hold a Quiz Evening. Any local organisation or charity can get together a table of ten people and stand to win £500 for their organisation. BG will e-mail Friends to see if this would be a good idea and what the take up might be. (**Action BG**)

10. Any Other Business

Mapping of the woods to be completed next year.

At the Hedgerow Course contact was made with the Chiltern Society and we are now on their website as a 'registered' woodland.

BC asked about obtaining a leaflet holder which could be attached to the information boards to be used to store our leaflets (**ActionBG**)

11. Date of Next Meeting

**Thursday, 3rd March, 2011 at 1.30 pm.**

Venue: 28 Carpenters Wood Drive.