

Friends of Hopwas Wood



Issue Number 19

March 2017

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017** commencing at **7.30 p.m.** at the Coton and Hopwas Social Club, School Lane, Hopwas. The meeting will elect the committee for the coming year and reports will be presented for the past year including an update of current activities affecting the Wood.

It is important that there is a good attendance by Members so that views can be aired and the current working of the Friends discussed to ensure that the elected committee has a clear mandate for action.

In accordance with the Constitution, nominations for Members of the Committee should be submitted to the Secretary 72 hours before the meeting and supported by at least two Members and bear the signature of the person nominated indicating their willingness to stand.

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous AGM (**Please turn over**)
4. Chairman`s Report
5. Treasurer`s Report
6. Election of Committee
7. Subscriptions
8. Any other business

Membership & Subscriptions

The membership and setting subscriptions for 2016-17 was discussed at the last AGM and it was again agreed that an annual subscription of £5 should be paid by each Member. The following is the current condition as per the constitution regarding subscriptions:

"Subscriptions shall be payable to give a true representation of the Membership. The Annual General Meeting shall determine the level of subscriptions and the date for payment for the next year. Notification of the subscription

amount and the due date agreed at the AGM will be sent to each member. Any Member falling more than three months in arrears shall be excluded from membership subject to adjudication by the Executive Committee and notice of such action being given in advance to the defaulting Member. A Committee Member falling in default under this rule shall forfeit Committee status forthwith."

A request for subscription payments was included in the September Newsletter. However a number of members did not pay their subscription by the end of 2016 as requested. As we are bound by our constitution their membership, in theory, has now lapsed. However we do value the support the Friends receive and understand that it is not unusual to forget to pay the subscription. Reminders were sent out but there are still some members who have not paid. This is an annual problem and therefore it is proposed that the arrangement for the payment of subscriptions be changed. It is proposed that subscriptions should be paid following the AGM with a cut-off date of the end of July. This will be considered by members at the AGM.

In the interim the Committee have agreed that we should send this Newsletter to everyone that was a member as at September last year.

If anyone has inadvertently forgotten their subscription payment we are happy to receive the same before the AGM.

Payments can be made using any of the following methods:

1. **CHEQUE:** Cheques should be made out to 'Friends of Hopwas Wood' and sent to the Treasurer, Martin Handley, at 8 Newlyn Close, Lichfield, WS14 9SH. If you want a receipt please let Martin know. Cheques can also be given to Ray Vanstone.
2. **INTERNET BANKING:** Payment can be made via internet banking to the Friends Nat West bank account number **73530662** sort code **53-70-15**. If you are making payment in this

way please ensure that you identify the payment with your membership number and name. Please notify Martin by e-mail at mhandley1@aol.com to say that you are making payment this way.

- 3. CASH:** Cash should be given to Ray Vanstone. **However methods of payment 1. and 2. are preferred as they provide a clear audit trail of payments made.**

Thank you all for your continued support.

Auditor Needed!!

Peter Hearne has been auditing our accounts since inception but he has moved away from the area so we need a new auditor. The person has to be a member of the Friends but not on the Committee. If you are willing to perform this role then please contact the Chairman.

E-mail

One of the easiest ways of communicating with members is via e-mail therefore if you are on e-mail and have not already given us your address, then please send your email address to Martin Handley at mhandley@aol.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was approved by Lichfield District Council in November 2016 and therefore the following policy forms an integral part of the consideration of any development proposal for the Wood in the future.

POLICY H1

Hopwas Wood is an important visual and ecological asset within the District of Lichfield as ancient woodland and shall be retained in perpetuity. A long-term management plan shall be established for the wood together with ensuring that public access is maintained through the retention of existing public rights of way.

Minerals Core Strategy

The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015 – 2030) was adopted by Staffordshire County Council on 16th. February 2017. The Committee will continue to monitor the Local Plan particularly with respect to any potential amendments.

Web Site

As you are aware we have a web site with a domain name of friendsofhopwaswood.co.uk. The site has a number of pages as follows: Home, About Us, History, News, Newsletters, Photos, Apply for Membership, and Constitution. **The Recent Posts are important as they include details of the Wood closures on the MoD site.** Please visit the site if you have not already done so.

History of the Wood

We continue to find as much as we can of the history of the Wood so that we can keep the web site up-to-date. We try to find interesting historical facts about the Wood and in particular the Woodhouse. In this respect we would be very grateful if anyone has interesting facts that we could include in the site. If so please contact the Chairman via e-mail.

Feedback

It is hoped that this newsletter has been informative and a further newsletter will be published September 2017. The Committee would welcome any comments and views from Members and these can be forwarded to any Committee Member.

Current Committee Members

Chairman: Ray Vanstone(rayvanstone@btinternet.com)
Vice Chairman: Lorna Bushell
Secretary: Barbara Stubbs
Treasurer: Martin Handley
Tom Jackson
Keith Anderton

Minutes of 2016 AGM

The meeting started with a very interesting talk by a representative of the Ministry of Defence about their activities in the Wood and its future use.

MINUTES OF AGM OF FRIENDS OF HOPWAS WOODS HELD AT SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB ON 20th APRIL 2016.

1. Welcome.
2. Apologies – see 19 apologies.
3. Present- all committee total 21 persons.
4. Minutes of previous AGM circulated, read, agreed and signed.
5. Chairmans report :-"Thanks to committee, three meetings held, Minerals Local Plan and Local neighbourhood plan. There are no concerns at the moment re. Tarmac. The neighbourhood plan would want to protect the wood in perpetuity. Tarmac has sold the wood to CRH (Ireland), who are planning nothing specific for the wood at the moment..
6. The MOD are active in maintaining their wood. Our Website has added history etc. We need more information, photos and history etc. MOD firing times will be added to website.
7. Treasurers report. We had 122 member, 12 new, we have lost 34 leaving 100 members. Accounts signed off.
8. Committee stood down, there are no applications, so committee agree will stand again
9. Proposal re-elect committee, no objections, unanimous decision.
10. Subs? It is up to members. Subs due in Sept, and members are given til Dec to pay. Proposal to leave at £5.00- agreed with no objections.
11. Chairman will monitor as MOD has felling licence, nothing can be done til plan is in place.

Meeting finished at 9.15pm.

