

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook

www.friendsofcherryhintonbrook.org.uk

Annual General Meeting 2014

Monday 9 June 2014

St Martin's Church Hall, Suez Road, Cambridge

Present: Monica Frisch (Treasurer), Sue Wells (Chair), Jón Fairbairn (Webmaster), Nicole Robertson (Membership Secretary), Shona Douglas, Anne Cleasby, Stuart Newbold (Committee members)

David Brookes, Fiona Gilsean, Jade Cawthray, Willa McDonald, John McGill, Dick & Vida Newell, Emmy Smart, Iain Webb, Judy Webb

Apologies: Holly Anderson (Secretary), Nicola Fawcett, John Summers (Committee Members), Andrew Walters (RiverCare),

1. AGM Minutes from 2013

Approved with no matters arising

2. Chair's report (attached)

Sue presented a summary of the report, and thanked all those who had supported the work of FCHB during the year, notably: volunteers on the clean-ups, RiverCare, the Cambridge Wildlife Trust, all the committee members.

Monica presented the recent work on vole sightings and recordings. Fiona said that she had met a student from St Bede's near Daws Lane who had made a video of the vole on her phone.

Action: Committee to contact St Bede's and develop links to work with them

3. Treasurer's report (attached)

Monica presented the report and thanked the Committee for giving their time and some costs (eg postage) for free.

4. Election of officers and committee members

Anne Cleasby is stepping down from the committee as she is leaving Cambridge in August. She was thanked for all her contributions to the work of FCHB.¹

Current officers and committee members willing to stand again are as follows:

Sue Wells (Chair), Holly Anderson (Secretary), Monica Frisch (Treasurer), Jón Fairbairn (webmaster), Nicole Robertson (Membership Secretary), Shona Douglas, Nicola Fawcett, Stuart Newbold.

Monica proposed all to be re-elected, Shona seconded and there were no objections.

¹ Post the AGM, it was also noted that Jane Phillips had stepped down during the year. The Committee is very grateful to her for all her contributions.

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Emmy Smart was proposed by Sue to fill the vacancy left by Anne. She was seconded by Nicole. There were no objections².

Action: Emmy Smart to be added to the group e-mail list for committee members

Action: Monica and Sue to contact Zoe Harris to find out if she still wishes to be on the committee.³

5. AOB

Some FCHB supporters and members are inadvertently no longer receiving the newsletter and other mailings. This was only discovered during conversations at the AGM.

Action: Nicole will review the membership list and ensure that all supporters are included

6. Date of next AGM

Monday 15th June 2015

The meeting closed at 8.15 and was followed by two talks:

Dick Newell from Action for Swifts spoke on the natural history of swifts, conservation concerns about this species, and the work of his organisation to promote the installation of swift nest boxes.

John McGill showed some preliminary results from the research he is doing on the cement works that previously dominated the brook and lakes area that will be a contribution to the Mill Road Local Natural History Project.

A general discussion and refreshments followed this and the evening finished at 10.00pm.

² Following the AGM, Darren Gillings was co-opted onto the Committee as his is helping FCHB with the vole work and photography activities.

³ Zoe was subsequently contacted and is does not now have time to be on the Committee but will continue to be involved with FCHB when she can

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FCHB Chair's Report

AGM June 2014

Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook have once again had a busy year. Activities that we have undertaken are briefly itemised below. We would like to say a big thank you to all our supporters:

- The many volunteers who take part in the brook clean-ups
- RiverCare, who provide the equipment, insurance and moral support for the clean-up, particularly Luther Phillips and Andrew Walters
- Sainsbury's Coldhams Lane store
- The Cambridge Wildlife Trust
- The City Council
- Last but not least, FCHB's very active Committee!

2014 Activities

Maintaining the attractive appearance of the brook

- Two brook clean ups – November 2013 and March 2014
- Liaison with RiverCare to ensure adequate equipment, insurance, and appropriate risk assessment, and to get general advice
- Supported tree and scrub clearance and willow pollarding, by City the Council

Raising public awareness about the importance of the brook for wildlife

- Newsletter: 5 issues (numbers 33-37)
- Talk on brook restoration by Cambridge Wildlife Trust at AGM, June 2013
- Display at Cambridge Natural History Conversazione, June 2013
- Stall at Mill Road Winter Fair, December 2013
- Permanent banner prepared to use for displays and publicity
- Live broadcast interview with Chair and Secretary on Cambridge Community Radio 105 FM, May 2014
- Continued development of membership
- Maintenance of website and Facebook page

Improving the brook as a home for wildlife;

- Local Plan Consultation: submitted our views on Policy 15 of the Draft Plan, reiterating our support for the establishment of an urban country park for the lakes, provided that this respects wildlife and that access and security issues are fully

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addressed in the master and management plans (our response document is on the website)

- Continued our collaboration with Sainsbury's who provided volunteers and refreshments for the November clean-up and promoted FCHB work in the entrance to the store. We have met with the manager to discuss plans for improvement of the brook around the store area and keeping it free from the litter which is mainly packaging from the store. The path alongside the store is being swept more frequently, the banks have been cleared and two rubbish bins installed. A third interpretation board, using the design of the other two, will be installed by the store with Sainsbury's covering all the costs.
- With Cambridge Wildlife Trust and City Council wildlife officer, we are starting to develop a proposal to the Heritage Lottery Fund for brook restoration.
- FCHB members resident in Burnside installed swift next boxes on three houses, in collaboration with Action for Swifts

Monitoring the wildlife of the brook

- There have been regular sightings of the water vole throughout the year, and we now have a recording system in place; one of the committee members participated in a workshop on voles in April; and RiverCare has loaned us a camera which has been placed at the side of the brook and that will hopefully record picture/videos
- We regularly report on birds and other wildlife in the newsletter

Liaison and co-operation with other organisations

- Ongoing communication with Cam Lakes campaign organisers
- Liaison with Cherry Hinton Network and Friends of Cherry Hinton Hall
- We are supporting the Mill Road Local History Project, and will be helping to provide information on the lakes and brook area.

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Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2014

Membership fees remain very low at £2.00 a year. Last year a number of members paid for two years at once, hence the higher figure. The average membership income over three years is £69.00.

Members of the committee have not claimed expenses for printing, postage or telephone. We thank them for donating not just their time but also waiving expense claims. However, expenses, if claimed, would be low as the newsletter, *Occasional Titbits*, is distributed mainly by email and only a very small number of printed copies are produced. A banner to publicise the group was produced, costing £18.50.

	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
Balance brought forward from previous year	£298.00	£191.00	£1,094.00
Membership income banked	£27.00	£106.00	£74.00
Donations		£1.00	£36.40
Miscellaneous		£0.00	£6.00
Subtotal income	£27.00	£107.00	£116.40
Interpretation boards			£1,000.00
Website			£9.40
Meeting room hire	£25.00		
Administration	£18.50		£10.00
Total expenditure	£43.50	£0.00	£1,019.40
Surplus on year	-£16.50	£107.00	-£903.00
Balance carried forward	£281.50	£298.00	£191.00

The bank balance to end May 2014 shows balance of £306.50 which tallies with the above as the room hire was paid for in cash.

Monica Frisch, Treasurer, 9th June 2014