

Friends of Hopwas Wood



Issue Number 21

April 2019

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2019** 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
4. Chairman`s Report
5. Treasurer`s Report
6. Election of Committee
7. Subscriptions
8. Any other business

Current Activities

The Committee has not been very active over the last year as pleasingly there have been no major issues for consideration that directly affect the Wood and long may that continue. That said they do monitor the activities of the landowners when aware of such activities such as the removal of certain trees to meet the safety requirements of the MoD or whether any thinning works are to be carried out and such matters as the use of mountain bikes and quads, particularly

along the public rights of way. However such activities are a matter for the landowners as the Friends remit is to ensure the protection of the Wood as ancient woodland. Therefore if any member has concerns over activities in the Wood please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman.

Tarmac

Tarmac were ask for comments on current activities in the area and the following has been received from Nick Atkins, Strategic Planning Manager:

"Mineral extraction operations at the existing Hints Quarry reduced towards the end of 2017 pending completion of land agreements to allow the northern extension area to be progressed. Those agreements completed just before Christmas and many readers who use the local footpath and bridle path network will have seen soil stripping operations get underway in the first phase of the extension area. These works are progressing well with mineral extraction scheduled to start from the new area imminently. This extension area will provide a further 5-6 years operational life at the quarry. Some of you will also be aware that the County Council have been forced to undertake an emergency closure of a section of the bridle path (Hints 3) running along the western boundary of the site due to it being undermined by badgers. We are currently working with the Authority to provide a diversion around the affected area and the new working area.

Tarmac continues to manage the woods in so far as regular checks and routine repairs to fences. As we enter into Spring our contractors will be monitoring the condition of the bridle path and undertaking any necessary strimming to ensure it remains clear of brambles etc. There are no commercial woodland activities (clear felling or thinning works) planned for 2019 and routine environmental monitoring (nesting birds / bats / invertebrates etc) surveys continue to be undertaken pursuant to our commitment to the long term sustainability of the woodland."

Nick Atkins has been thanked for his update.

Membership & Subscriptions

The membership and setting subscriptions for 2019-20 will be discussed at the AGM.

In accordance with previous decisions the agreed subscription will need to be paid following the AGM with a cut-off date of the end of July. Therefore in accordance with the Constitution if any member fails to pay their subs by the end of October they will cease to be a 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."

The Committee however recognise that the payment of subscriptions can easily be forgotten. Therefore they do use their discretion as to whether or not a member who has not paid by the due date should be removed from the membership.

The subscription for 2019-20 should be paid as soon as possible. **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 name. Please notify Martin by e-mail at mhandley1@aol.com to say that you are making payment this way.
3. **CASH:** The best way to pay by cash is to attend the AGM and pay on the night. Alternatively cash can 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.

Access to the Wood

As you are aware there is limited access to the MoD part of the Wood due to firing on the range or exercises in the Wood itself. Details are posted on our web site so please check it before venturing out. If anyone has any concerns regarding access please let the Chairman know. In addition it is important that when accessing the Wood that you keep to the designated public rights of way.

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.

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.

On the Home page there is a list of Recent Posts which importantly include details of the Wood closures on the MoD site.

Please visit the site if you have not already done so.

Feedback

It is hoped that this newsletter has been informative and a further newsletter will be published September 2018. 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

