

**Notes from Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday 1st September 2018**



Present: Shlomo, Josh, Lorraine, Jes, Rose, Kevin, Malcolm, Pauline M, Mark, Jill, Thomas, Dianne, John G, Colin H, Ann C, Callum, Ann W [17]

Apologies: Richard, Alan, Phil, Janet, John C, Celia, Tim, Ian, Christine, Megan, Ron T, Lee, Betty, Barry, Helen, Ron J, Jim, Phyllis, Chris, Andrew, David S, Val, Geoff, Doug, Ann D, Katrina, Sarah, Marie, Charles, Tony D, Mitch, Shane, Gareth, Linda, Tony H, Dennis, Neil, Pauline S, Frances, and Sam [40].

All present were welcomed and thanked. Copies of Report & Accounts were distributed. The Report & Accounts are also available from:

http://www.foresttown.net/nature/FTNCG_2018_Report_and_Accounts.pdf

As attendees were arriving and settling in the Reflections video produced by John Childs for the Heritage Project museum exhibition was played. This video is available from:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYXDKKBnEsY>

Apologies were conveyed, including reading out a letter from Rich.

Members were reminded of the Group's charitable object and the ways that we meet our object, e.g. by delivering thousands of volunteer hours litter picking and conservation working resulting in recognised improvements of the physical and natural environment, and by carrying out regular water quality testing and sharing results with WatersideCare, the Environment Agency, and others as appropriate.

Attendees enjoyed first an oral and then a visual review of the past year or so. FTNCG's achievements are set out in more detail in Report & Accounts. Highlights include:

- Successful Spa Ponds Heritage Project completed in October 2017. We continue to research the history of Spa Ponds and to seek recognition for the site to be valued both for its wildlife and its history, e.g. we enjoyed a series of four training sessions with Matt Beresford during May 2018, and Matt helped us secure 'Non-designated Heritage Asset' status for Spa Ponds to complement the site's Local Green Space status.
- FTNCG Trustees remain committed to honouring and building on our Heritage Management Plan, including exploring possibilities for core sampling and analysis and other heritage-related works, hence the reserves target to raise £2,000 to help fund future heritage work relating to the rich history of Spa Ponds.
- Second phase of our Wetland Habitat Recreation Project only just completed, with Woodland Trust support, which included £1,000 of funding, plus video of Spa Ponds – which was shown at the AGM and which is available from:
<https://www.facebook.com/FTNCG/videos/249162952464788/>
Further habitat improvement work can be progressed through voluntary efforts, e.g. translocating plants and trees already growing at Spa Ponds.
- 5,000+ volunteer hours litter picking and conservation work in and around Forest Town since 1 April 2017.

- Tree and pond plant planting, dead hedging and maintenance sessions carried out by FTNCG volunteers – including creating a new path, alongside commissioning around £3,000 of work carried out by EMEC.
- Carrying out regular water quality testing and sharing results (thanks to Phil and Janet).
- Cooperating with Community Council, e.g. providing updates, receiving £500 donation.
- Helping manage Himalayan Balsam in and around the Spa Ponds site.
- Involved with Sherwood Catchment Partnership, incl. working to Lively Up the Maun.
- Meetings with fellow landowners & police re: anti-social behaviour, e.g. off-road biking.

Helen, as FTNCG's Rushpool Liaison Officer, provided a written report about the Rushpool Open Space. Helen thanked Mansfield District Council's Parks Department for mowing the dog walkers paths through the meadow, clearing the steps, and collecting litter (including fly-tipped clothing). She raised some concerns about how quiet the birds have been of late. Ann explained how, as the birds are moulting and therefore less able to fly they would not wish to call attention to themselves, so they are quieter at this time of year.

It was reported that FTNCG comprised 58 members (on 17th August). Gratitude was expressed for all FTNCG members' voluntary efforts, and for the support shown by non-members such as our local councillors and the Forest Town Community Council. The suggested donation has been raised from £2 to £5 (waivable on request).

Josh, as Treasurer, delivered an oral Finance Report based on the Statement of Accounts, which was accompanied by the following presentation slides:

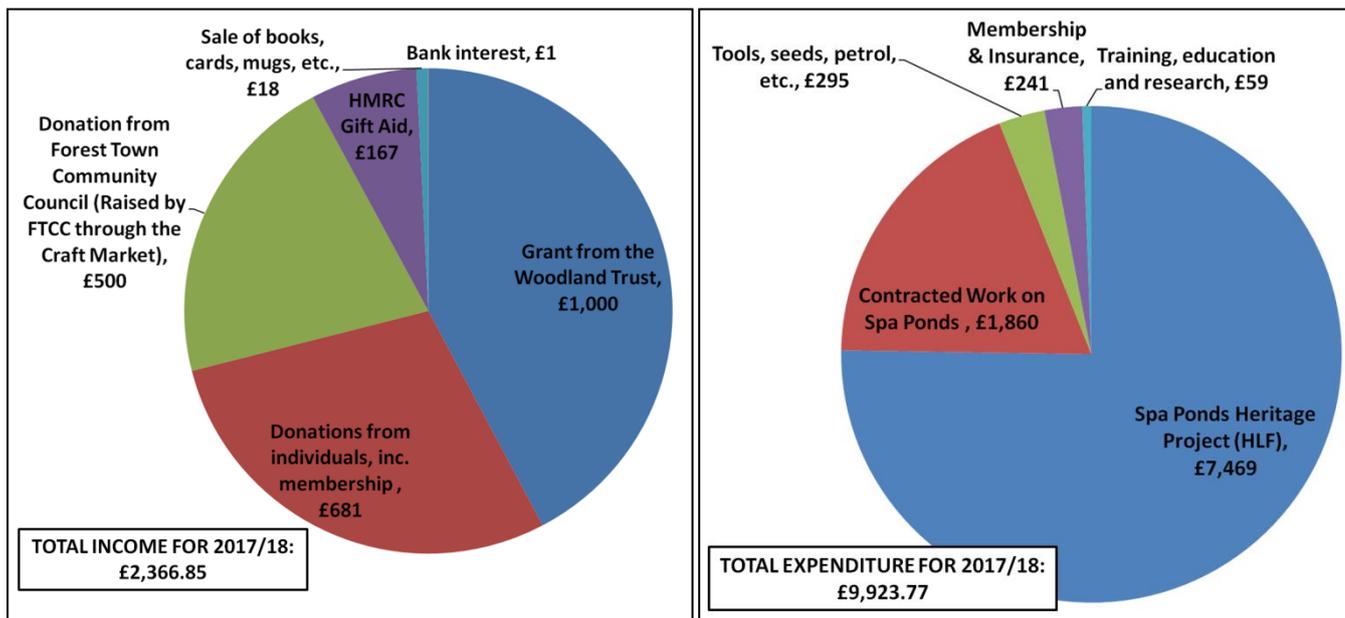
Finance report / Annual Statement of Accounts

Accounts for 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

Opening balance (Total)			
	Cash	£45.33	
	Bank	£10,643.52	£10,688.85
Total income			£2,366.85
Total expenditure			£9,923.77
Closing balance (Total)			
	Cash	£21.29	
	Bank	£3,110.64	£3,131.93

Accounts for 1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017

Opening balance (Total)			
	Cash	£28.90	
	Bank	£3,927.01	£3,955.91
Total income			£13,943.01
Total expenditure			£7,210.07
Closing balance (Total)			
	Cash	£45.33	
	Bank	£10,643.52	£10,688.85



It was noted that further details of FTNCG's finances, including our current reserves policy, are available within the Report & Accounts.

The connection between FTNCG and the Tour of Britain was celebrated. Stage Seven of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain will finish at the Chesterfield Road Park (near the Civic Centre on Chesterfield Road South) on Saturday 8th September. As FTNCG took part in the OVO Energy "I Dig Trees" initiative, resulting in FTNCG planting around 200 trees and plants, as well as receiving £100 worth of tools, we were invited by OVO Energy to provide a representative to present a tree to the Green Jersey winner on behalf of OVO Energy. We are grateful to Mark for stepping in to represent the Group at this prestigious event!

The following FTNCG Officers and Trustees were elected unanimously:

- Lorraine Downen for the Office of Chair;
- Jez Healy for the Office of Vice-Chair;
- Shlomo Downen for the Office of Secretary;
- Josh Downen for the Office of Treasurer (and Website Administrator); and
- Alan Alberry (Warden), Mark Fretwell (Tree Officer), John Gibson (Landowners Group Liaison), Phil Goodall (Water Catchment Liaison), and Richard Smith (Biodiversity Officer) as Trustees

Other roles include Barry Housley continuing as our Warden alongside Alan, and Helen Johnson continuing as our Rushpool Liaison Officer.

The AGM was formally closed, and following a short break those present enjoyed a presentation from Ann Ward, of the Nottinghamshire Fungi Group, on the fungi present at Spa Ponds.