

**Draft Minutes of the
Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)
Annual General Meeting (AGM)**



which took place at the Forest Town Welfare
from 7pm on Wednesday 9th May 2012

Fully paid up members present: Lorraine (Chair); Dave (Vice Chair); Shlomo (Secretary); Josh (Treasurer); Alyson (Membership Secretary); Ian (Site Management Support); Rose; Colin; Pauline; Malcolm; Barry; Margaret; Megan; Andy **[14]**

Apologies from members: Jeff (Rushpool Representative); Betty; Alan; Frances; Christine; Helen; Ron; Susan; Geoff; Val; Charles; Jackie; Bernie; Chris; Arnold and Michael **[16]**

Welcome: Lorraine, as Acting Chair, welcomed those who came to support the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group [FTNCG] by attending the Group's first Annual General Meeting [AGM].

Review of the FTNCG's first year: Shlomo, as Acting Secretary, provided a brief review of activities since the Group's formation on 1st Feb 2011, when the five volunteers who made up the original Committee met and began to develop a "Business Plan", open a bank account, and welcome members. Seven minuted FTNCG meetings were held in 2011 and a further five meetings in 2012, along with several outdoor events, all open to members of the public. Guest speakers have included: Andy and Ruth (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust - NWT), Chris (Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group - NottsBAG), Wayne (Sherwood Forest Trust), and the Friends of Thynghowe, including Stuart and Lynda. The FTNCG is a member of the NWT, BTCV (now known as The Conservation Volunteers), the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum, and the NottsBAG.

Membership Report: Alyson, as Acting Membership Secretary, gave a brief membership report, and thanked all those who renewed their membership.

Finance Report: Josh presented the FTNCG accounts, which have been audited by Ann Ward. Income (of £1,725.77) and expenditure (£676.96) were explained (see below), with remaining funds on 31st March 2012 of £1,48.81 – and on this basis, Josh proposed that the FTNCG's audited accounts be approved. This was seconded by Shlomo, and unanimously endorsed by all present. Josh proposed a motion, that Ann Ward be re-appointed as the FTNCG's independent auditor. This motion was seconded by Rose, and unanimously endorsed by all present. Josh proposed a further motion, that the FTNCG's yearly subscription fee remain at £2 per person. This motion was seconded by Pauline, and unanimously endorsed by all present.

Site Management Report: Dave, as Acting Vice-Chair, provided a site management report covering Rushpool Open Space and Spa Ponds. Generally speaking, Dave reported being very pleased with progress to date. He is looking forward to removal of paths at the Rushpool site, as promised by Mansfield District Council.

Chair's Thanks: On behalf of the FTNCG, Lorraine thanked everyone for all the donations, both financial and in-kind, received since the group began, including for the financial support received from each of our District and County Councillors, and from the Forest Town Methodist Church Cafe, raised through Liz's fun run, and from members' kind contributions. We are also grateful to Mansfield District Council, Friends of Thynghowe, and the Forest Town Heritage Group for their 'in-kind' support. Special thanks to Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, especially Andy; and to generous photographers like Jeff and the Marples; to our Wardens Dave, Barry and Alan; our Committee and Representatives, including Rose and Ian; to the other volunteers, including Colin; and also those parents and grandparents who have brought their children and grandchildren along to help pull balsam!

And this year's Chair's Award, framed photographs of Spa Ponds, goes to... Barry and Alan – for all their creative and successful efforts keeping the Spa Ponds site so remarkably tidy.

The Vote on Endorsing the Committee was proposed by Pauline and seconded by Margaret, and the Committee was unanimously elected to serve the FTNCG as follows: Chair – Lorraine Downen; Vice-Chair – Dave Oliver; Secretary – Shlomo Downen; Treasurer – Josh Downen; Membership Secretary – Alyson Ciborski; Rushpool Representative – Jeff Smith; and Site Management Support – Ian O'Brien

Forward Programme: Next FTNCG meeting will take place from 7 pm at the Forest Town Welfare on Wednesday 13th June. The next Spa Ponds balsam pull from 10 am on Saturday 7th July. There will be further meetings from 7 pm at the Forest Town Welfare on Wednesdays 25th July and 26th September.

The FTNCG outing to Attenborough Nature Reserve will happen on Saturday 11th August. Entry is free entry, and we are asking for donations (of around £8 per person) to cover the cost of transportation. Places on the minibus are booking up, and there are currently only two or three places left, so if you wish to travel to Attenborough on the minibus, please contact Shlomo. It is hoped that all travel costs will be covered by the time of our meeting on 25th July.

Any Other Business

Rose proposed a vote of thanks for the Acting Committee, and this was unanimously passed.

Close of the AGM: The AGM was immediately followed by a presentation by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Andy Lowe.

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group

Audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012

Income

General Donations	£155.35	
Membership Dues (£2 per member)	£102.00	
Chestnut Fund Support Grant [1]	£348.91	
Cllr Barton (MDC Grant)	£300.00	
Cllr Wright (NCC Grant)	£250.00	
Cllr Moody (MDC Grant)	£200.00	
Chestnut Fund Start-up Grant [1]	£150.00	
Cllr Bennett (MDC Grant)	£100.00	
Fun Run Donations	£55.00	
Forest Town Methodist Church Cafe	£50.00	
Nottingham Evening Post	£14.51	
Total Income		£1,725.77

Expenditure

Tools and Equipment [1]	£387.78	
Insurance [1] [2]	£161.18	
Venue Costs [3]	£50.00	
BTCV Membership	£35.00	
Notts Wildlife Trust Membership	£33.00	
Friends of Greenwood Community Forum Membership	£10.00	
Total Expenditure		£676.96

Funds remaining [4] **£1,048.81**

Notes:

[1] BTCV grants went directly to pay towards insurance and equipment and did not go through the FTNCG bank account.

[2] In addition to the £150 Chestnut Start-Up Grant used towards insurance, FTNCG made an initial insurance payment of £6.76 that was topped up by £4.42 to cover tools.

[3] £5 cash from General Donations was paid for venue without going through the FTNCG bank account.

[4] £2.80 cash in hand; £1,046.01 in bank.

Treasurer: Josh Downen

Auditor: Ann Ward