

**Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)
Open Committee Meeting 2nd December 2015**



Registered Charity No. 1157957

Present: Shlomo Downen (Chair); Richard Smith (Vice Chair); Josh Downen (Treasurer); Lorraine Downen (Secretary); Alan Alberry (Trustee); Rose Powell (Trustee); Ross Lacey (Trustee); and Mark Fretwell; Helen Johnson; Kevin Gilbert; Pauline Marples; Malcolm Marples; Ann Childs; Ian O'Brien; and John Gibson [15]

1. **Trustee resignation:** Shlomo explained that Barry's resignation as a Trustee of FTNCG was necessary due to other commitments, and that the resignation was accepted on 25th October 2015 and immediately reported to the Charity Commission.
2. **Membership & Finance Updates:** On 29th November 2015 FTNCG comprised 46 members (42 renewed or joined in the last 12 months). At 29th November 2015 FTNCG had a total of £3,778, some of which is ring-fenced, e.g. for Spa Ponds. Since our 16th September 2015 Open Committee Meeting FTNCG has received donations from Nottinghamshire County Councillors Alan Bell and Colleen Harwood, and Mansfield District Councillors (MDC) Martin Wright and Mick Barton, amounting to £800, and the other 2 Forest Town Councillors have also promised to make donations from their MDC Divisional Funds. Additionally FTNCG received a £200 cheque from ASDA (photo not yet posted to ASDA's 'Green Room'). Thanks to Helen for getting this together, and thanks to everyone who put green tokens in the slot for FTNCG.
Action: Letters of thanks to be sent to Councillors and to ASDA (for display).
3. **NWT request:** Following discussion and consideration of a draft reply (circulated in advance of the meeting), Trustees unanimously endorsed a final version of the letter to be sent in response to NWT's Rob Fitzsimons' e-mail message.
Action: Shlomo to reply to NWT's Rob Fitzsimons as agreed.
4. **Printing for 2016** (quote and draft flier previously circulated): Approval of idea for print run of 500 (@ £42.20), although the design of the flier(s) has yet to be finalised. It was noted that 100 FTNCG 'business cards' have been printed, and a suggestion was made for the next print run re: leaving space at the front for name / telephone number.
Action: Shlomo to update John C. & circulate editable version of draft for improvement.
5. **Spa Ponds** site management discussed, with focus on improving our approach to Health & Safety, e.g. by providing hard copy of risk assessments for signing. It was also agreed that the Group would benefit from more trained first aiders.
6. **Sightings** sent to recorders; summarised data available via: www.foresttown.net/nature/
7. **Rhythm / programme for 2016:**
 - Friday sessions 12 Noon - 2pm on 11 Dec.; 8 & 22 Jan. 2016; 5 & 19 Feb.
 - Spa Ponds Site Mgmt Meeting: w/c Mon 15 or 22 February 2016
 - Next Open Committee Meeting at Welfare: Wednesday 2nd March 2016
 - Toad Counts: March / April 2016
 - Forest Town History Day: Spring 2016
 - FTNCG Meetings: Wednesday evenings 6 April, 4 May (AGM) and 15 June
 - Balsam Pulling: from around May
 - Bat Walk: Friday 13th May 2016, from 9pm
 - Moth catching session with Ian: late May / early June (depends on weather)