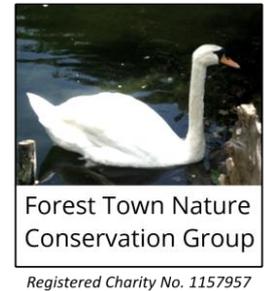


Minutes of Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Annual General Meeting (AGM) Wednesday 16th September 2020



Present: Shlomo, Lorraine, Josh, Phil, Jes, Mark, Dennis, Dianne, and Les [9]

All present were welcomed and thanked. Electronic copies of FTNCG's Report & Accounts were distributed, with hard copies sent to members without Internet access. Several apologies were received, including from Colin and from Pauline and Malcolm. The Report & Accounts are available from:
http://www.foresttown.net/nature/FTNCG_2020_Report_and_Accounts.pdf

As had been explained in advance of the AGM, Trustees agreed that this year's meeting should be held virtually (with an option to join the meeting via a telephone connection). The Chair explained how the AGM was intended to focus only the business of the organisation, reminding members how, on 6th August FTNCG Trustees agreed that FTNCG's 50 members would be treated as if they had all renewed their membership. Membership remains free of charge, with a suggested donation of £5 per person. Shlomo thanked all those who have donated to FTNCG, both directly and via the Robin Hood Lottery and Amazon Smile.

The Chair recounted how FTNCG continues to do our best under unusual circumstances associated with Covid-19. FTNCG Wardens have increased the frequency of their visits to Spa Ponds to help keep up with 'demand'. Despite these heroic efforts, and those of others like Jes and Andy Hollis who have helped clear fallen trees, FTNCG has fallen behind in some respects. For example, Himalayan balsam has returned to Spa Ponds and we can expect more next year. We are in touch with Chris Jackson and with WatersideCare / Keep Britain Tidy who will be helping us address this challenge.

FTNCG continues to benefit from the support of many people and organisations, including Les Warren (WatersideCare), Rob Martyr (Keep Britain Tidy), and various people from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Some special work sessions have been planned for early October, and FTNCG hopes to be working with Andy Hollis on clearing and hedging at Pond Hill Wood before the end of this year.

FTNCG's Report & Accounts covers the period from 1st April 2019 through to the end of March this year. The Report provides a succinct summary of the ways FTNCG met our charitable obligation 'to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around Forest Town'. During the period covered by this Report our Spa Ponds wardens Barry and Alan devoted more than 888 hours looking after the Spa Ponds site, including collecting more than 175 bags of rubbish. In the five years since May 2015 when we started recording volunteer hours, FTNCG volunteers (including our Wardens) have delivered more than 14,200 volunteer hours, mostly at Spa Ponds.

The Accounts reflect the modest but healthy state of the Group's finances. FTNCG has sufficient reserves to ensure the charity continues for the next few years at least, although additional income would position us to bid for more funding and to pay for more site improvements than we can currently afford. All those who participated in the virtual AGM joined Trustees in endorsing the Report & Accounts for 2019/20.

All those nominated as Trustees were unanimously endorsed, as follows: Shlomo Downen (Chair and Vice-Secretary); Josh Downen (Secretary and Treasurer); James Healy (Vice-Chair); Alan Alberry (Trustee and Spa Ponds Warden); Mark Fretwell (Trustee and Tree Officer); John Gibson (Trustee and Landowners Group Liaison); Phil Goodall (Trustee and Water Catchment Liaison); Lorraine Downen (Trustee); Diane Simpson (Trustee); and Dennis Platts (Trustee).

Dennis was welcomed as a new Trustee. The AGM was formally closed, and was followed by lively discussion.