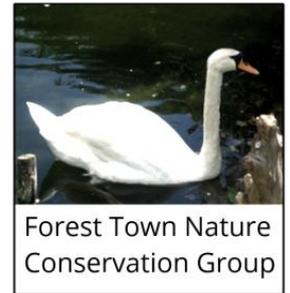


Minutes of Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG) Annual General Meeting (AGM) Wednesday 7th July 2021

Present: Shlomo, Lorraine, Josh, Phil, Jes, Mark, Dennis, Pauline, Malcolm, Neil, Colin, Helen, Ron, and Ann [14]

All present were welcomed and thanked. Electronic copies of FTNCG's Report & Accounts were distributed in advance of the meeting, with hard copies sent to members without Internet access. Several apologies were received, including from Stuart and Rob. The Report & Accounts are available from: http://www.foresttown.net/nature/FTNCG_2021_Report_and_Accounts.pdf



Forest Town Nature
Conservation Group

Registered Charity No. 1157957

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 not going to be FTNCG's longest meeting, and how Trustees had approved the Report & Accounts on 19th May and were looking for members' endorsement. FTNCG Trustees agreed that FTNCG's 52 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.

The Chair recounted how, despite Covid restrictions, FTNCG had enjoyed a special and positive year. By way of example it was noted how, with kind support and much determination from Keep Britain Tidy's Rob Martyr, FTNCG volunteers working alongside volunteers from both the Mansfield Building Society and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, made great progress clearing spaces and sowing seeds for wildflowers to attract pollinators, such as bees, to Spa Ponds. Other memorable events included producing a site management plan, receiving training from Andy Hollis at Pond Hill Wood, and clearing a football that was blocking a pipe causing flooding between Ponds 3 and 4

FTNCG's Report & Accounts covers the period from 1st April 2020 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'. Additionally, FTNCG's Report & Accounts sets out details of FTNCG's structure, governance and management, accompanied by a description of the activities undertaken to meet our charitable object. The Chair thanked Diane and John who stood down as Trustees, and welcomed Samantha as a Trustee. It was also noted that Barry continues as a Spa Ponds Warden alongside Alan, and Helen continues as Rushpool Liaison, while Matt remains our Archaeological Adviser for Spa Ponds Nature Reserve. The Report concludes with a monthly summary of the 2,264 volunteer hours delivered by FTNCG between April 2020 and March 2021.

The Treasurer talked attendees through the charity's accounts, noting how the Group ended the year with nearly as much as we had when we started the year, having spent around £7,000 for work carried out at Spa Ponds. The Treasurer also noted how the £400 raised in conjunction with Portland College in January 2021 had been paid into the account after the close of the financial year covered by the Accounts. The reasoning behind the charity's financial Reserves Policy was also explained in some detail (see Page 5 of the Report & Accounts). The Chair proposed that the Report & Accounts be endorsed by those present. This motion was seconded by Neil, and unanimously carried.

All those nominated as Trustees were unanimously endorsed, having been formally proposed by Dennis and seconded by Pauline, 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); Phil Goodall (Trustee and Water Catchment Liaison); Lorraine Downen (Trustee); Samantha Nicholson (Trustee and Landowners Group Liaison); and Dennis Platts (Trustee and Photographic Records Officer).

The AGM was followed by an open discussion, including of FTNCG's forthcoming activities.