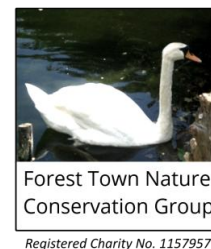


**Minutes of Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)
Annual General Meeting (AGM) Saturday 11th June 2022
Held at Kingsway Hall, Clipstone Road West, Forest Town**



Present: Shlomo, Lorraine, Phil, Samantha, Mark, Dennis, Malcolm, Helen, Ron, Ann, Ann's friend, Kevin, Chris B, James, Rose, Christine, Andy H, Sarah, Callum, Bob, Colin H, John L, Geoff, Margaret, and Frances [25]

Apologies: Josh, Alan, Barry, Pauline, Stuart, Diane, Ian, Lee C, & others.

Before and after the meeting there were opportunities for attendees to socialise and view displays. Electronic copies of FTNCG's Report & Accounts were made available via http://foresttown.net/nature/FTNCG_2022_Report_and_Accounts.pdf in advance of the meeting, with hard copies available on the day.

All present were welcomed by the Chair, who noted how Kingsway Hall provided an historic setting for an historic AGM, as it was the first indoor meeting held in-person since FTNCG's AGM on Saturday 8th June 2019, and the first FTNCG AGM to be held at Kingsway Hall.

The Chair reminded everyone that FTNCG is a registered charity that exists to: "*promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in and around Forest Town*", celebrating the fact that since we starting keeping track of volunteer hours back in May 2015 FTNCG volunteers have delivered more than 20,000 volunteer hours fulfilling our charitable object. With 57 members, in accordance with Section 12 of FTNCG's Constitution, quorum was 6 members entitled to vote, and so the AGM was quorate.

The Chair thanked Jez who stood down as a Trustee, and noted how Samantha had become a Trustee in March 2021. Attendees then unanimously endorsed the following Trustees and Officers: Shlomo Downen (Chair and Vice-Secretary); Lorraine Downen (Vice-Chair); Josh Downen (Secretary, Treasurer, and Website Administrator); Alan Alberry (Trustee and Spa Ponds Warden); Mark Fretwell (Trustee and Tree Officer); Samantha Nicholson (Trustee and Landowners Group Liaison); Phil Goodall (Trustee and Water Catchment Liaison); and Dennis Platts (Trustee and Photographic Records Officer). It was also noted that Barry continues as a Spa Ponds Warden alongside Alan, and that Helen continues as Rushpool Liaison, while Matt remains our Archaeological Adviser for Spa Ponds Nature Reserve.

The Chair then drew attention to FTNCG's Report & Accounts, which sets out how the charity complied with our obligations under the Charities Act throughout the period from 1st April 2021 through to the end of March this year. The Report provides a succinct summary FTNCG's activities alongside details of the charity's structure, governance and management. The document also includes our Reserves Policy for the coming year, alongside details of funding sources and how we've spent our funds to fulfil our charitable purpose. The Report concludes with a monthly summary of the 3,110 volunteer hours delivered by FTNCG between April 2021 and March 2022.

In the Treasurer's absence, the Chair talked attendees through the charity's accounts, noting how the Group ended the year with more than we had at the start of the year, having spent nearly £10,000 for work carried out at Spa Ponds, tools, seeds, membership, insurance, printing, postage, training and other volunteer expenses.

The Chair also noted how the Group's income came from a good range of sources, including: Natural England, M2M, Keep Britain Tidy, Severn Trent Community Fund, Friends of Outwood Field, Portland College, ASDA, Amazon, the Robin Hood Lottery, and from donations from Councillors and individuals.

The reasoning behind the charity's financial Reserves Policy was also explained (see Page 5 of the Report & Accounts), including how funds have been set aside for FTNCG's contribution of 10% towards a Severn Trent Community Fund bid amounting to a total of around £50,000 for EMEC to carry out work on pipes, paths, and ponds at Spa Ponds. The intention is to submit a bid in August 2022, and the amount of funding we will be able to request will depend on the amount of money we have raised by then.

This was followed by an illustrated 'Review of the year', focussed on recent projects, such as Spawn on the Maun, Keep the Forest Buzzing, and Habitat Improvement, as part of fulfilling our various management plans (including our March 2021 Site Management Plan, our Woodland Management Plan (approved by the Forestry Commission as the basis for our felling license), and our October 2017 Heritage Management Plan).

The Review also included a selection of Dennis' photographs of wildlife found at Spa Ponds, and a brief description of current and planned future activities, including: biodiversity skills training with Andy Hollis; aquatic and a terrestrial invertebrate surveys at Spa Ponds to be carried out by EMEC ecologist Adrian Dutton; bird and bat boxes to be donated and installed by the Mormon faith community; water quality testing - including training from the Environment Agency to help interpret our results, an M2M access project to improve access around Packman's bridge (deterring illegal off-road bikers); inclusion in an M2M-funded video celebrating nature conservation in the area; inclusion in a substantial (25+ year) Landscape Recovery bid made on behalf of a grouping of fellow landowners by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; and plans to refresh / revamp FTNCG's website (with Josh's support).

The presentation concluded with the Chair outlining a variety of ways that volunteers can support the charity, such as joining our email list, visiting our Facebook pages (and sharing photos!), becoming a member, taking part in work sessions, offering to help with water quality testing, becoming a Trustee, recording/reporting wildlife sightings (using iRecord), donating some money (towards our 10% Fund) and through Amazon Smile and the Robin Hood Lottery.