

Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8th August 2022

1. WELCOME

Acting Chair for the meeting, Graham O'Connell (GO) opened the meeting and went quickly through the agenda. GO then introduced the guest speaker Colin Wilson.

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

Colin Wilson (CW) introduced himself and explained with the aid of a power point presentation his 40 year journey to authoring a book on Blackwater Valley Nature Walks (BVNW).

He was first introduced to bird watching by a friend 40 years ago. In that time he became Chair of British Ornithologists' Club (BOC), became a bird ringer, and had 15 years as a trustee with the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust (BVCT).

Because of Covid, CW thought about walking as a hobby dues to its physical and mental health benefits. As a result CW setup a website (<https://www.blackwatervalleynaturewalks.co.uk/>) detailing walks in the Blackwater area. People can download walks from the website and so far, there have been 18000 downloads.

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CW went through some of the key features of the Blackwater Valley, the canal, lakes, ponds, woodland and heathland followed by a description of 3 walks. He described the trees, plants, flowers, insects and the wildlife you could see on the walks. Walks have done keeping pubs and other places to get refreshments in mind, also tried to coordinate with local transport and has worked with the health authorities.

Finally CW produced a book on 35 walks ranging from 1.4 miles to 9.3 miles. The book is only available to order on the website or can be bought here.

David Parsons (DP) asked if the walks were dog friendly.

CW said they were but should use discretion about taking a dog off lead.

There were other questions such as the rarest bird he had seen and were there safety concerns with the Pirbright Ranges.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT, ANNOUNCEMENTS & AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

GO detailed what the Society had done over the last year:

Improvements on the Green - a noticeboard, new wooden bins.

Fed into the SHBC draft local plan.

Tackled Network Rail on the Hatches level crossing.

Planted trees and wildflowers.

Reviewed all planning applications in the 3 villages, including 6 significant housing projects (3 in Deepcut, 2 in Frimley Green and 1 in Mytchett).

Monitored developments at Farnborough Aerodrome, have a representative on the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC).

Question from the Floor (Q): Is there a date for the work on the Frimley Green roundabout?

GO: No but not this year for certain.

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Angela O'Connell (AO) and Mandy Withers (MW) proposed and seconded the changes in the constitution, voted through by the residents on the floor.

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The Treasurer Carol Drew (CD) went quickly through the accounts. The accounts can be seen at:

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At the end of which she appealed for more members. She said that as the Society now has to have liability

Insurance as it runs events like the AGM so needs more income. CD said the Committee is against increasing the subs at this moment in time.

5. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Gisella Duckworth and MW proposed and seconded CD as Treasurer, voted through by residents on the floor. Penny Drage and Nick Patterson proposed and seconded the election of the rest of the committee, , voted through by residents on the floor.

6. TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

7 **INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL OFFICIALS:** Cllr Cliff Betton (CB), Cllr Paul Deach (PD), Cllr Morgan Rise (MR), Jan Warwick (Neighbourhood Watch), Graham O'Connell (MFG&D Society)

8. SUMMARY OF SURREY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ACTIVITY

Jan Warwick (JW) the Chair of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch gave a rundown of what they do. Amongst the many things they are doing are:

Help vulnerable people make their homes more secure and in the last week helped 28 vulnerable people. Cooperate with the police by reporting any concerns that people might have about criminal activity in their neighbourhood.

Cooperate with the police in local Meet the Beat meetings where people can take their concerns to the police.

Offer marking for catalytic converters and bikes.

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Some sample questions:

Q: Asked about rubbish collections during the strike by the local GMB union.

PD said the contractor is doing its' best but until the strike is over things will be difficult. PD said that people should not use the Wilton Road facility as it is a complete mess at the moment.

MR:added that no garden waste is being picked up.

Q: Asked about Sturt Road railway bridge cutting back the vegetation and repairing and painting the railings.

MR said he is badgering Network Rail to do this.

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PD said the tramp needs lots of help and there is no law or by-law that can force him to move.

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Gisella Duckworth and MW proposed and seconded CD as Treasurer, voted through by residents on the floor. Penny Drage and Nick Patterson proposed and seconded the election of the rest of the committee, , voted through by residents on the floor.

6. TEA AND COFFEE BREAK

7. INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL OFFICIALS: Cllr Cliff Betton (CB), Cllr Paul Deach (PD), Cllr Morgan Rise (MR), Jan Warwick (Neighbourhood Watch), Graham O'Connell (MFG&D Society)

8. SUMMARY OF SURREY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ACTIVITY

Jan Warwick (JW) the Chair of Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch gave a rundown of what they do. Amongst the many things they are doing are:

Help vulnerable people make their homes more secure and in the last week helped 28 vulnerable people. Cooperate with the police by reporting any concerns that people might have about criminal activity in their neighbourhood.

Cooperate with the police in local Meet the Beat meetings where people can take their concerns to the police.

Offer marking for catalytic converters and bikes.

Note: This was in place of the police report as no police were available.

9. QUESTION TIME WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS

Some sample questions:

Q: Asked about rubbish collections during the strike by the local GMB union.

PD said the contractor is doing its' best but until the strike is over things will be difficult. PD said that people should not use the Wilton Road facility as it is a complete mess at the moment.

MR:added that no garden waste is being picked up.

Q: Asked about Sturt Road railway bridge cutting back the vegetation and repairing and painting the railings.

MR said he is badgering Network Rail to do this.

Q: Asked about signs being obscured by vegetation.

PD said any such signs should be reported to him.

Q: Roy Norman asked moving the tramp off the Green.

PD said the tramp needs lots of help and there is no law or by-law that can force him to move.

10. RAFFLE

£61 was collected for the raffle.

£60 was collected for subs, £9 for visitors, £14.05 for refreshments.

11. MEETING CLOSE

Local Officers Present

Councillor Cliff Betton SHBC Frimley Green

Councillor Paul Deach SCC. Frimley Green, Mytchett/Deepcut & SHBC. Mytchett/Deepcut

Councillor Morgan Rise SHBC. Mytchett/Deepcut

Local Officers Not Present

Councillor Stuart Black SHBC Frimley Green

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Councillor Helen Whitcroft SHBC Mytchett/Deepcut

MFG&D Committee Members Present

Carol Drew (Treasurer) Rod Carroll (Website Administrator)

Maharukh Daley Howard Hyde

Clare Kennedy (DNF Rep) Sarah Kingsley (Publicity)

Chris Main Roy Norman

Graham O'Connell Tony Painter (FG Carnival Committee Rep)

Jan Thompson

MFG&D Committee Members Not Present

Jacques Olmo Anji Patterson

David Whitcroft

Mytchett, Frimley Green & Deepcut Society

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8th August 2022

1. WELCOME

Acting Chair for the meeting, Graham O'Connell (GO) opened the meeting and went quickly through the agenda. GO then introduced the guest speaker Colin Wilson.

2. SPEAKER'S PRESENTATION

Colin Wilson (CW) introduced himself and explained with the aid of a power point presentation his 40 year journey to authoring a book on Blackwater Valley Nature Walks (BVNW).

He was first introduced to bird watching by a friend 40 years ago. In that time he became Chair of British Ornithologists' Club (BOC), became a bird ringer, and had 15 years as a trustee with the Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust (BVCT).

Because of Covid, CW thought about walking as a hobby dues to its physical and mental health benefits. As a result CW setup a website (<https://www.blackwatervalleynaturewalks.co.uk/>) detailing walks in the Blackwater area. People can download walks from the website and so far, there have been 18000 downloads.

CW explained what BVNW is, the local authorities it covers and shared a map showing where all the published walks are. The walks are colour coded for difficulty and range from 2 to 5 and above miles.

CW went through some of the key features of the Blackwater Valley, the canal, lakes, ponds, woodland and heathland followed by a description of 3 walks. He described the trees, plants, flowers, insects and the wildlife you could see on the walks. Walks have done keeping pubs and other places to get refreshments in mind, also tried to coordinate with local transport and has worked with the health authorities.

Finally CW produced a book on 35 walks ranging from 1.4 miles to 9.3 miles. The book is only available to order on the website or can be bought here.

David Parsons (DP) asked if the walks were dog friendly.

CW said they were but should use discretion about taking a dog off lead.

There were other questions such as the rarest bird he had seen and were there safety concerns with the Pirbright Ranges.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT, ANNOUNCEMENTS & AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

GO detailed what the Society had done over the last year:

Improvements on the Green - a noticeboard, new wooden bins.

Fed into the SHBC draft local plan.

Tackled Network Rail on the Hatches level crossing.

Planted trees and wildflowers.

Reviewed all planning applications in the 3 villages, including 6 significant housing projects (3 in Deepcut, 2 in Frimley Green and 1 in Mytchett).

Monitored developments at Farnborough Aerodrome, have a representative on the Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee (FACC).

Question from the Floor (Q): Is there a date for the work on the Frimley Green roundabout?

GO: No but not this year for certain.

Amendments to the constitution – The COMMITTEE: The Officers shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a President to be elected by the Committee as needed. The Committee shall consist of the above mentioned officers with the addition of a minimum of 8 members.

Angela O'Connell (AO) and Mandy Withers (MW) proposed and seconded the changes in the constitution, voted through by the residents on the floor.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer Carol Drew (CD) went quickly through the accounts. The accounts can be seen at:

[www.mfgdsociety.org.uk/Meetings/Accounts/MFGDS Accounts 2021 2022.pdf](http://www.mfgdsociety.org.uk/Meetings/Accounts/MFGDS%20Accounts%202021%202022.pdf)

At the end of which she appealed for more members. She said that as the Society now has to have liability

Insurance as it runs events like the AGM so needs more income. CD said the Committee is against increasing the subs at this moment in time.

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