

## **Minutes of Friends of Lye Valley AGM 5 August 2019**

**Location: St Francis Church Hall, Hollow Way. 7pm**

**Apologies:** Roz Smith, Lawrence & Judy Casserley, Sally Gillard, Willemina Rietsema

**Present:** Dr Judy Webb (Chair), Dr Terry Wood (Treasurer), Heather Armitage (Secretary), Committee members, Steve Dawe, Hazel Dawe and Steve Woolliams.

**The Chair** Welcomed all present.

**Minutes** of the 2018 AGM were approved.

**Matters Arising:** the Bullingdon Community Centre will be re-built.

### **Chair's Report:**

#### **Lye Valley SSSI, LWS and LNR**

FOLV have been extremely active in caring the the Lye Valley fen.

Thanks to Andy Gunn for his and BBOWT's Wild Oxford contributions to the Lye Valley – and other Oxford fens in need of restoration.

Thanks to: Tony Gillie for Social Media work. FOLV now has 570 Twitter followers.

Thanks to Stephanie Jenkins for maintaining FOLV's website.

Thanks to Terry Wood, Treasurer, and Heather Armitage (Secretary).

Thanks to Committee members for their work, including Steve and Hazel for Publicity work.

Thanks to all the FOLV volunteers who work in the fen on Wednesdays, rain, hail or shine.

Thanks to Rod D'Ayala and Terry Newsome for their work in joining 3 privately-owned gardens back to the fen to act as stepping stones between the north and south fens.

Thanks to OCV who, twice a year cut and rake both fens, providing vital manpower.

There are now logs in place to help prevent parking at the Slade entrance to the Valley – but more are needed. Thames Valley Police PCSOs and PC are most helpful in dealing with this problem. Our thanks to them.

Andrew Parker of Oxford Brookes University is investigating the peat content of the fen, a way into its ancient history. There are indications of a 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

Two Brookes students are studying the chemistry of the springs in the North fen: nitrate content, how it arrives there; how does it affect vegetation? Tap water has 30 parts per million nitrate; the fen should have max 0.5 parts per million. But what does it have? This is material for an undergraduate dissertation.

Resulting from volunteer work the numbers of flowers are vastly increased, resulting in increased butterfly and invertebrate populations. Lizards and slow worms have benefited from this increased food supply and basking areas eg the boardwalk and dead trees.

**Rock Edge:** the Council's scrapes have given more flowering plants and FOLV have increased flowering plant numbers and diversity.

FOLV participated in a geoconservation and education event with Oxfordshire Geology Trust.

**Threats:** the re-build of the Bullingdon Community Centre could enable the water flow to the fen to improve – FOLV Committee are trying to improve the current plans.

The Old Road and Churchill campuses will both have huge developments with a knock-on effect on the Lye Valley fens.

**Treasurer's Report:** the FOLV are slightly better off than at the 2018 AGM. However, donations of jam which have accounted for much of FOLV's income, will cease. A formal vote of thanks was made to Heather Armitage for her contributions. Increased membership fees were agreed to be more in line with other local organisations ie Adult: £10, Family £15 and Unwaged £0. Heather Armitage proposed £200 be given to Judy to contribute towards refreshments at volunteer sessions.<sup>1</sup> This was agreed by all present.

**Rod D'Ayala** who has created the 16 'leaky dams' to reduce the water energy, gave a fascinating talk on the reptiles and amphibians in the Valley, especially the slow worms – which, as he commented, are neither slow nor are they worms.

9pm the meeting ended.

After circulation to members no comments were received so the Minutes were passed as Agreed .

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<sup>1</sup> To be paid July 2020