

**FRIENDS OF SHURNHOLD FIELDS (FOSF)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023 - Minutes**

Tuesday 14th November at 7 PM - Melksham Without Parish Council Meeting Room  
First Floor, Melksham Community Campus, SN12 6ES

**Present:** Matt Blueitt (FOSF) Vice Chair, Andy Newman (FOSF) Treasurer, Donna Hambly (FOSF) Secretary, Roy Horwood (FOSF) Claire Bainton (FOSF) Ethel Shaw (FOSF) Anthea March Bank (FOSF) Shirley, Paul Carter, Councillor Sue Mortimer (MTC), Councillor J Glover (MWPC) Teresa Strange (MWPC) Clerk, Helen Roberts, Toshi Parsons, Eamon Mcgrane , Mike Sarson-Rowe, Peter Richardson Chair of CAWS

**Apologies:** Roy Dobson – Chair, Linda Roberts Town Clerk

**Minutes of last AGM 2022:** these were circulated by email.

**Matter arising from the minutes:** None.

Due to the absence of the chair Matt Blueitt (MB) was voted in as chair to continue the meeting. AN proposed MB for Chairman. DL Seconded with the attendees unanimously in agreement. MB proposed AN to continue as Treasurer who agreed. DL Seconded with the attendees unanimously in agreement. AN proposed DL to continue as Secretary who agreed. MB Seconded with the attendees unanimously in agreement

Due to Roy's ill health, he has decided to step down as Chair. Andy and the team give their thanks to Roy for all the work he has done for FOSF, his efforts in maintaining a committee, the many hours of work work he has put in over the years, all he has achieved at the field and the good position his work has left us in. We are also grateful for his continued support which includes the use of his lawnmower and storage etc while we wait for the new mower purchase and shed to be installed.

**Chairmans report:** MB read out Roy Dobson, Chair report

Matt stressed that due to lack of mower/transport for moving trees etc they were unable to work the field as much as they would have liked. Roys mower was being repaired and the team felt the lack of mower hindered their efforts.

**Secretary report:** DH apologised due to only recently taking over the role explained that she was currently getting up to speed on admin and work undertaken by the team.

**Treasurers report** – AN read his report

**CAR PARK AND ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Teresa advised that the funds have been secured for this and although a start date is still to be confirmed the project is moving in the right direction. The land requires drainage and the use of geo

mesh surfaces. The entrance is not suitable for general public to use /difficult access and will need to be moved. The spoils to be used to aid with water/flood protection.

## **SHED**

A hard standing and a metal barrier is required prior to installation. However, this will be installed after the car park and as its planned position is near a watercourse it will require some thought. Shed size and door opening will need to be correct size to house the ride on mower.

## **MUDDY ENTRANCE**

Teresa offered to contact Tree Surgeon to deliver wood chips for entrance which is very muddy. Team requested he drop be made as close to the entrance as possible.

## **HIMALAYAN BALSAM**

This is an Invasive weed and needs removing.

After research it seems Himalayan balsam spreads rapidly by seed dispersal and unlike Japanese knotweed can be controlled/the spread reduced by strimming before seed set. Flowering must be prevented for several years to deplete the soil seed bank.

The Golf club should be notified that the brook on their land should also be cleared.

## **ADVERTISING**

Several people suggested that the noticeboard/FB Local groups are kept upto date to ensure all the local residents are aware of what the Friends do and when. EM advised he could possibly help ad hoc if he knew when the working party would be at the field and suggested the noticeboard could help here but often the working group is organised just the night before after the weather is checked etc. Taken his number to add him to contact and would message him as he often gets overloaded with whats app.

Currently the notice board appears to be broken, the parish council will repair this if required

DH was recently added to the FB page and will add content/ working party notifications/ and work accomplished etc.

## **GRANTS**

As a community group, we should be able to access some grants. TS will help with this.

TS suggest it may be possible to get a bigger grant if we could try to raise some money to help A sponsored run/walk was suggested by HR if we appear to be trying to raise money, it may help with securing some grants.

Grants would help Mower/servicing and additional smaller tool/kit purchases that the FOSF team require eg - waders for working in the brook.

TS, advised the parish council maintains the fields, empties bins, check trees in adverse weather, weekly maintenance etc and this comes out of the maintenance fund. She will arrange for another load of wood chips to be delivered to field entrance.

TS will arrange mower cut of field for Feb/March as due to adverse weather /wet conditions this has not been done.

TS has sourced some bamboo weed suppressant for tree/weed management

## **INSURANCE**

TS advised that the Friends require Insurance/liability insurance and funding/grants would enable this.

## **FOSF COMMITTEE 23-24**

New committee voted in with some new volunteers coming forward.

Matt Blueitt - Vice Chair  
Andy Newman – Treasurer  
Donna Hambly – Secretary  
Roy Horwood  
Claire Bainton  
Ethel Shaw  
Anthea March Bank  
Helen Roberts  
Toshi Parsons  
Eamon Mcgrane

Mike Sarson-Rowe who is currently purchasing some land at Shaw was there to understand on how a team manages a small piece of land with a view to possibly share ideas/knowledge /maybe tools etc when the sale goes through.

Helen Roberts - a new volunteer - offered to mow a walkers path if required. She lives local to the fields and has access to a ride on mower.

Toshi Parsons, who also volunteered to help, advised she has links to a lawnmower reseller, and could possibly help with mower advice.

## **Date for next committee meeting**

This has now been booked for  
31st Jan at 7pm. Sainsbury's meeting room.

## **ACTIONS**

Check Noticeboard and advise on issue. DH will report to TS if broken

Chase TS re: woodchip delivery

Research Mower/price/size etc

Apply for grants if available

Insurance