

# F.O.T.F. AGM 2018 MINUTES

18<sup>th</sup> October, Oak Lodge

## **PRESENT: SEE ATTACHED LIST**

The meeting opened was opened by the current chair, Anne Mason, who welcomed everybody to the FoTF Annual General Meeting and explained that following the AGM, there would be a short refreshment break followed by a presentation.

Meeting commenced at 1905

The minutes of the previous AGM from 2017 were put up for approval, these were accepted by Judy English and Owen Moore.as written.

Alan Spidy then gave the Treasurer's Report.

Dave Goodrum gave the Secretary's Report.

Anne Mason gave the Chair's Report.

No matters arising.

At the conclusion of the Chair's Report, tribute was paid to Rachel Riley as the outgoing FC liaison person and she was presented with a card and books.

The election process was then undertaken, with existing members re-standing and Clare Tough, with support of members Paul Morgan and Gaz Jones, was admitted to the committee.

AOB – member James Cross raised his concern in regard to the CDM regulations and the BSI Tree protection in relation to the work of FOTF. As a consequence of already having held a meeting with James Cross and FC and FoTF, the comments were taken to minute for review by the next 2019 AGM.

Tristram Hilborn, Forest Management Director, East District, then spoke as summarised:

All volunteers are very important to FC and their support is vital to the Commission.

FC's core ideal is to connect people to the Public Forest Estate, and the main way of achieving this to get people involved – the volunteers work is central to this ethos and is in fact the core to all FC work to some degree as demonstrated by the fact there were 182 000 hours recorded nationally . He thanked us for all our work across the forest, which amounted to over 4000 hours in 2017.

FC had just been through an audit locally, and they were very happy with what they saw, and 1 of the 6 commendations received was in fact for our work with FC.

With 2019 being the centenary of the Forestry Commission, plans are being made to celebrate this event , and it is of note that significant changes have been seen over the last 100 years and these will feature in these celebrations, as will be the need for more community involvement going forward.

2018 has proved to be a difficult year due to the weather leading to a reduced number of visitors to all sites, not just High Lodge, and as a result a reduced income on the recreation side, which unfortunately will lead to some changes being inevitable.

The memorandum of agreement between FC & FoTF was then signed by the Chair and the Forest Management Director for the forthcoming 12 months.

The AGM was then formally closed, and refreshments served, followed by an enlightening and entertaining presentation on the Deer of Thetford Forest by Valentina Ziti.

## **AGENDA FOR 2019**

- 1) **Apologies**
- 2) **Record of Attendance**
- 3) **Minutes of 2018 AGM**
- 4) **Matters Arising**
- 5) **Treasurer's Report / Financial Statement**
- 6) **Secretary's Report**
- 7) **Chair's Report**
- 8) **Committee Elections**
- 9) **AOB**
- 10) **Comments from the Floor**