

KWA AGM JUNE 28TH 2005 HELD AT STOCKGROVE RESTAURANT

APOLOGIES: Carol Banks, Pauline Lyon, Rae Smith (23 Redwood Glade)

MINUTES OF LAST AGM: Minutes accepted as read

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR:

Victor thanked everyone for coming and thanked Judith Knight for her excellent talk on birds.

Achievements

- Continuing improvement and maintenance of the woods along with the GST
- KWA website. Victor thanked Clive for setting up the website
- A very successful Children's Day held in 2004
- Two committee members trained on brushcutting.
- The DEFRA report started, but yet to be completed
- SBDC audit of all trees. Everything is being mapped. Could we ask for a copy of this report? This would allow the committee to have the same information as the county. We may never use it but at least we will have it.
- Regular newsletters to keep members informed of the work of the committee.

Victor asked John Williams' view of the KWA newsletters. Mr Williams said it was useful to read what is going on. Victor said it may be useful to send newsletters electronically since many people these days prefer this means of communication. The committee could include in the newsletter a list of email addresses of those committee members who are happy with that (using the KWA address - eg maggie@knollswood.com). John Creasey (GST ranger) would like his email address to be given in the newsletter.

Re the DEFRA grant, the committee will try to complete the application this year. Information is needed about costs (eg John Creasey's time to attend meetings and replacement trees when trees have been felled). There is no budget for replacing trees and we need money to do this. We have noticed the deterioration over the past 20 yrs; nothing is replaced. It was suggested that the KWA replace something like 20 trees a year. Discussion followed about this item. We could ask Frost's if they would donate some trees in return for an excellent location - good exposure near schools – schools could be involved - good publicity. We need some idea of when things should be planted. It was suggested that we put Mark Bailey's advice on the website so people can read it. Victor has gone on the S Beds website www.soutbeds.gov.uk - Knolls Wood is on there. We're doing a good job but we must keep the pressure on. The committee appreciated Mark Bailey's advice.

Looking forward

Future projects include brushcutting and cleaning up graffiti. We have new planting to do and tree replacement and many other things in line with the management plan - we are now in the second year of a five year plan. LNR- we have decided on Mark Bailey's advice not to go ahead. There are other plans, such as new gates for the wood, working with locals schools. The Parish Paths Partnership has already decided that Sandy Lane will be levelled. As a committee, we do not claim any expenses.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

The accounts show that we collected £873 in subscriptions from about 200 houses - nearly £5 per household. We need to decide whether we ask again for subscriptions this year or every other year. We could put a survey out on the website to find out what members think.

Bank statements were circulated and received approval.

The audience moved that we have an annual subscription and, if necessary, give it back. We should ask people who pay the subscriptions for an email address and then we could keep them in touch with them and send newsletters. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The funds will pay for more bulb planting and replacing our ageing Scots pine stock.

A vote of thanks was given from the audience.

RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Treasurer – Clive Atkins

Secretary – Maggie Cook

Chair - Victor felt that he should not stand again as he will be away a lot, but after September things are a lot clearer. He offered to recruit more people. He is willing to chair the committee again if the other members are happy with that. It is useful to have some one who is around during the day. In the absence of any nominations for the position, Victor will offered to remain as chairperson

Committee members - Carol and Robin Banks, Tony Green, Jenny Monk

It was not clear whether Pauline Lyon would be willing to stand again. Since the committee is so small, it would be useful to have volunteers to help from time to time, even if they do not wish to be committee members; for example for the delivery of newsletters. Victor will ask his three neighbours if they would like to help. There is a volunteers' address on the website: volunteers@knollswood.com. Should we ask for more volunteers?

AOB

It was decided that next year, because of the poor turnout to this year's meeting, we should deliver reminders about the AGM about a week before. email addresses may be useful to send people reminders. Ask people if they wish their email address to be known. We need to publicise the AGM better next year.

CHILDREN'S DAY

John would like to discuss this at a meeting soon and will appreciate help in organising it. The Children's Event is on August 6th.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING to discuss the Children's Event

Tuesday 5th July at Jenny Monk's - 30 Redwood Glade - 8pm