



COLNE VALLEY PARK

Annual Friends Meeting

23rd March 2023

Item	
1	<p>Welcome & Introduction Glenys Price (GP), Friends Representative for the three-year term from 2019 to 2022.</p> <p>Attendance: 26 members of the Friends came.</p> <p>Glenys welcomed everyone and said how pleased she was to see so many friends at our first meeting since the pandemic.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Jean Timms, Stella Rowlands, Alex Gaffney, Barbara Brooks, Lord John Randall (who we wish a speedy recovery from his emergency surgery) and John Whitby.</p>
2	<p>Membership Secretary's report. Paul Graham (PG), Membership secretary.</p> <p>The membership situation for 2022/23 was: 209 members (118 households). £775.00 subscriptions + £1,801.00 donations = £2,556.00 total.</p> <p>The membership situation for 2021/22 was: 191 members (111 households). £700.00 subscriptions + £1,400.25 donations = £2,100.25 total.</p> <p>Comparing the two years, we increased the number of households and members. Members continue to be very generous with donations.</p> <p>Regarding the survey sent out with the AGM agenda concerning the subscription levels, raising it would probably lower the number of members whilst slightly increasing the income. However, a membership increasing in size is very important, so PG's recommendation would be to retain the existing subscription levels.</p>
3	<p>The Colne Valley Regional Park: Where have we come from? Where are we now? Where are we going? Presentation by Stewart Pomeroy, Colne Valley Managing Agent.</p> <p>Stewart outlined the scale of development threats now facing the Colne Valley Regional Park and how important it was to continue to raise the profile of the Park and respond to these threats. He also presented the results of the Friends Survey and summarised, that as Paul had said, the majority view of the membership was to keep the membership fee the same and that people would welcome a social event like a quiz and that just a few people did mention that they would be willing to help with this.</p>
4	<p>Friends Representative. Voting on nominations received, Stewart Pomeroy</p> <p>The Friends representative of the Colne Valley Park Trust is a position held for three years and this was now due for re-appointment: Only one nomination had been received, which was for Glenys Price, who is happy to continue. There then followed a vote, which was unanimously in favour of Glenys to continue.</p>



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5	<p>Guest Speaker: The Colne Valley Landscape Partnership. £2.5m of Lottery Funding to improve the local environment – including helping Eels complete their 3,000 mile journey from the Sargasso Sea to the lakes & rivers of the Colne Valley.</p> <p>Presentation by Debbie Valman (DV), Groundwork South.</p> <p>Question from Carol Gibson: Should we suggest that when people are out and about that they report any rare species that they see, as these sightings are useful statistics for planning applications?</p> <p>Answer: DV agreed that this would make a good article for the next newsletter. It fills in the background detail; increased statistics on animal and flowers show that conservation work is working. DV suggests also reporting the bad stuff e.g. fly tipping.</p> <p>Question from Pat McGee: The path from the Uxbridge Alder glade to the canal is all mud. Who is responsible for public rights of way?</p> <p>Answer: DV said that this is a Bucks council right of way. She is waiting to do improvement work on this path under the Lottery Landscape Partnership scheme but cannot get access as National Highways are currently doing repairs. Some parts of the path will be fixed, but this may mean that the muddy part is not done. (A possible article for the website).</p> <p>Attendees were reminded that the Walks book produced by the Colne Valley Regional Park: "Walking in the Footsteps of an Edwardian" was available to purchase at a reduced rate for "Friends".</p> <p>Glenys thanked the Groundwork team for all their work, raising money and conserving the local area, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.</p>
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Signed Date