

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 6th January 2019

Present: Mike Flood, Milja Spruit, David Crutcher, Tony Ewin, Roger McAdam, Carole Lattin, Peter Lattin, Jenny Lee, Anne Quigley, Clive Hole, Richard Lilly, Barrie Evans

1. The Chairman welcomed members. He referred to the bench on the cycle path opposite the Rowing Club which had been installed by the County Council at the direction and expense of Betty Empey who lived at Old Durham Farmhouse. Thanks were due to her and also to Milja and Dave who had worked hard in the Wood over many years but have now moved to Barton. Progress on the designation of Pelaw Wood as a local nature reserve was ongoing. Funding for appropriate signage at the entries to the Wood would be needed.

2. The Secretary's Report was received with thanks. She was warmly congratulated on the birth of her baby daughter.

3. The Treasurer's Report was approved. The closing balance of £722.30 was noted.

4. Election of Officers

The officers were re-elected:

Chairman -Tony Ewin

Treasurer-Mike Flood

Secretary – Sarah Wheeler

Auditor – Richard Lilly

Website Manager / Publicity Co-ordinator – David Crutcher

5. Work Programme for 2019

(a) Some of the steps below the main glade needed replacement.

(b) One or two aspen trees in the Old Hockey Field needed thinning so that they did not suppress neighbouring trees.

(c) Balsam pulling should start in April and continue through the summer.

(d) At Jenny Lee's suggestion, it was agreed that the ancient well near the Silverlink Bridge should be exposed by removing the surrounding vegetation. This project should be used as a publicity vehicle for the work of the Friends.

(e) The February session would be a tree identification walk.

(f) Milja offered to lead a dawn chorus walk at the beginning of May.

Any other business

Carole Lattin reported on her observations and discussions about the "Sherburn Road Wildlife Park" and the former football field.