



Friends of Island Pond Wood Ltd

Report for LPC Annual Meeting.

It was great to be able to hold our first AGM, with the new Friends and Families Group replacing the Association, in the Parish Hall on 17th March 2022. Twenty-two people attended and the new Chair of FIPW Ltd (Robert Dowman) and the new Chair of the Friends and Families Group committee (Chloe Bradford) were able to introduce themselves in person. Both of these positions had been relinquished by Tony Meacock, but Tony remains a director and takes on the role of Secretary (relinquished by Linda Murray who has stood down as a director after ten years).

Chloe and Rob both grew up in Launton and are excited to be involved with our village woodland (IPW).

The financial statement indicated that there is a healthy balance in the accounts. Membership held up very well in 2021/2022 with a total of 116 members by the end of the year. The subscription for 2022/2023 were due from 17th March and remains at £10 per adult. We would like to thank Launton Parish Council for their Grass cutting grant over the last 12 months, we would also kindly request that this continues for the next 12 months in order to help keep the woodland accessible for everyone to enjoy.

The Annual Report was given by Liz Turvey and Chloe. The 2021 community events were described and Liz expanded on how the “Reflection Area” project had come about via the grant funding. It is hoped that this will be completed by May in time for our “Bee Happy” community event on 21.05.2022.

Maintenance work sessions continued in 2021, but it would be good if more people were able to join in. It is a brilliant way to get some healthy outdoor exercise in good company while supporting the local community!

Chloe gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Future Plans”. There was lots of information about (and photos of) the existing habitat and how we will be seeking to enhance it; for instance, hedge coppicing, understory planting, meadow extension, wildlife ponds. A twenty-year plan is being developed and funding applications made.

We are also currently engaged in discussions with EWR for support in village initiatives in order to restore and improve/ widen the footpaths in the woodland, this will mean that everyone can access the woodland all year round.

In the last 6 months EWR have kindly donated new bird boxes (which have been installed) and hopefully you will all see them in use.

The main future focus for the FIPW include:

- Ensure the IPW is accessible for all, all year round.
- Create and implementing a twenty-year management plan for improvements and maintenance via different funding routes (Membership, Grants and donations).
- manage and enhance the sites habitat, wildlife and creating the twenty-year management plan.
- future community engagement, events, education and communication.

Do contact us on fipwlimited@gmail.com if you would like to become a member or you would like to become more actively engaged with your local wood.

Rob Dowman (Chair of FIPW Ltd)