

Minutes of HFRG AGM held in Hursley Clubhouse 10:30 10th February 2024

Attendees

Pam, PeterN, MikeM, DaveS, DaveM, PaulH, PaulC, PaulS, SueR, SueJ, SueL, Ginnie, Glynn, Eric, Julie, Norman, Marina, and William

Apologies for Absence

Russ, Tina, Leif

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Zoom meeting held on 11th February 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising from Last Meeting

No items were raised.

Election of Officers

The current office holders were re-elected without objection:

Treasurer: DaveS

Chairperson/BMS Liaison/ Recorder: Eric

Program organisers: Eric, Tina

Committee Members; Paul

Summary of 2023 Activities

Eric gave a report on the 2023 activities, which is attached

Finances

DaveS presented the accounts which are attached.

There were questions about the John Rose legacy and Eric explained who he was and what part of the legacy had been spent on. The question arose about suitable items to spend the residual £140 on and SueR suggested a digital microscope. There was some

discussion and it was agreed that William, Sue and others look at possibilities and report back.

William suggested that we might purchase some of the recently-published FSC Fungus leaflets for use at education events.

There are no plans to change the charges of £10 for individual and £12 for family membership. As Peter asked for clarification regarding their span, membership runs from January-December but people joining in November/December are credited with the following year's membership.

We have received a £1,500 grant to cover sequencing costs of NF samples but may have to cover those from the rest of the county ourselves if the BMS funding dries up – HFRG have already used about half of the existing grant, although only just over half of the samples were ours...

William suggested that we could set up a donation link on the website to help defray these or other costs.

Communication

DaveM gave a summary of the separate HFRG and TVFG Facebook pages and the joint HFRG and TVFG group. The HFRG page has 103 “Likes” and 133 Followers. The group has 68 members with ~34 active. Dave has done the bulk of the administration as Peter was having some difficulties with access. Marina offered to help Dave and Peter requested to be relieved of his duties :-)

Phil has done a great job of maintaining and updating the website – but he is in Tasmania and we should look for a more local succession plan. Marina offered to discuss with him how to make progress.

Pam requested that emails addressed to membership@hampshirefungi.org.uk should be forwarded to Dave rather than herself.

Eric mentioned the idea of “fungus of the month”, which is run by several other groups. The idea was received with interest but needs further thought. Marina and PaulS, among others volunteered to look at options.

William asked about the GDPR implications of our email system and Eric pointed out that groups.io is an opt-in system where new members are invited to join and can unsubscribe at any time. No information other than the email address is kept.

There is a separate spreadsheet of telephone numbers from members who have volunteered this information, which is kept on secured laptops.

Recording

Pam has worked very hard (again) to record what was identified in the field and then entering them into FRDBI and would really like some help. There was a discussion about options alternatives, including in-field apps. but whatever is used needs to allow entry into FRDBI...

2024 Programme

People were requested to forward details of any new sites which might be worth considering, keeping in mind that we need to know where we could park and who to contact to arrange permissions.

Russ is hoping to talk to FE about making surveying in the Forest more flexible and there is plenty of Franchises to look at so we really need places further north.

We hope to run the Reptile Centre event the end of October – ie the beginning of half-term but have not chased Hilliers, so need to look for another site for UKFD on the 5th October. Norman suggested that we could consider Kingsley Common and Community Centre. He will investigate. Dave also suggested Cameron's Cottage Franchises and other suggestion are welcome.

As we did not take part last year, we may not be invited to join the Nature Festival at Gilbert White House should it take place this year but, if we are, Marina was keen to help.

AOB

Norman requested an HFRG dropbox and William made the point that we could maximise the amount of storage available by inviting existing users. More information required..

Eric asked whether people are happy for images they distribute around the group be used on other sites without separate agreements. No-one voiced any objections with this, providing the originator was credited.

The meeting at 11:50..

