**THE FRIENDS OF THE TRAP GROUNDS TOWN GREEN & LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Margaret’s Institute on 23 February 2024**

1. **Introduction:** Alan Allport, in the Chair, welcomed approximately 60 people to the 17th Annual General Meeting. Sixteen apologies for absence were noted. The meeting was declared quorate.
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 13 March 2023** were approved unanimously, with no matters arising.

1. **Progress Report for 2023**

**a. Conservation work.** Three benches were installed in memory of our dear friend and photographer, the late Nicola Devine; meadows and glades were scythed and strimmed in Spring and Autumn; several unsafe trees and willows were felled by a contractor; a beehive was installed to enhance wildflower pollination. Volunteers from two local tech firms planted wildflowers and cleared a glade next to the boardwalk, where students from St Clare’s Sixth-Form College planted 20 trees (in addition to performing a wide variety of monthly maintenance tasks). Oxford Direct Services provided 5 tons of self-binding shingle and spread it along the eastern half of Frog Lane. Oxford Conservation Volunteersrebuilt the culvert fences in Frog Lane.

**Plans for 2024:** clear several big fallen trees; scythe meadows and glades in Spring and Autumn, and a block of reeds in September; landscape the new path through the Magic Kingdom; spread gravel on the west end of Frog Lane, and on minor paths; deepen Dragonfly Pond; clear duckweed from Swan Pond; maintain the never-ending war on brambles.

**b. Recreation and education.** Events in 2023 included the traditional May Morning Birdsong Walk (24 species were identified), a Spring Watch afternoon of pond-dipping and green crafts for children, and a Smelly Walk for children. The Nicola Devine Photography Competition generated considerable interest and some remarkable submissions. Thanks are due to Suzanne and Donald Dalton for their on-going reptile survey (which recorded a significant increase in Slow-Worm numbers since 2022); to Anthony Grieveson for managing our website; and to Miranda Robinson for managing the Facebook page.

1. **Financial Report.** Total income in 2023 was £9,734, generated by supporters’ donations (£6,325), sales of the 2024 calendar (£1,857, with thanks to Tom Bulford for the production), and a grant of £320 from City Councillor Tom Landell-Mills. Total expenditure: £6,933. The bank balance at 31/12/23 was £10,407 (much of which will be needed eventually to pay contractors to deal with fallen trees and dredge the stream and selected ponds). The balance includes £937 remaining in the Nicola Devine Memorial Fund, which will be used to provide prizes in the ongoing photography competition. The statement of accounts was approved.
2. **Next Year's Committee:** Offers by Alan Allport, Tom Bulford, Donald Dalton, Howard Davies, and Catherine Robinson to continue serving were unanimously endorsed. Sam Crofts, Lance Millar, and Colm O'Caomhanaigh, retiring after many years of valuable service, were thanked for their support. Offers by Chris Goodall, Ian Haslam, and William Powlett Smith to take their places were endorsed unanimously.
3. **Powerpoint presentation.** Guest speaker Julian Cooper (City Council Parks Ranger) gave an illustrated talk entitled *Managing Port Meadow for People and Wildlife.*

*Catherine Robinson (Hon. Secretary, The Friends Of The Trap Grounds)*

*24 February 2024*