

Holders Woods Conservation
Minutes of the AGM
7th September 2025, 2pm

1. Present / Apologies

a) Those attending: Helen Harvey (Chair), Fiona Tyson (Sec), Ian Harvey (Committee), Eva Hyde (Treasurer), Andrew Wadsworth, Barry Wood, Andy Gardner, Richard Davis, Peter Searle, Ryan Kung, Pete Tyson, Kevin Doig, Michael Sutton, Martin Mence, Jenny Daniels.

b) Apologies received from: George Montgomery-Fleming, Anne Snell

2. Minutes of the last meeting 1st September 2024

Ratified by members attending.

3. Matters arising from 2024 minutes not covered below

Sarah Moss is still selling her prints of Holders Woods and we have had £150 to date.

4. Membership

a) Election of committee members.

Barry Wood has proposed that the current committee be re-elected. This was seconded by Jenny Daniels. The current committee members are pleased to serve for a further year and thanks were given by members for the work of the committee. Members said they would be happy to help with specific tasks if the committee needed extra hands.

b) Current member numbers. We currently have **27** members who are regularly active with us.

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5. Activity Report

Below is our Activity Report summary for July 2024 – June 2025.

Date of Activity	No. of attendees	Brief description of activity	No. of hours group working
7 July 24	7	Himalayan Balsam pulling and re-siting the repaired sign.	14
4 Aug 24	8	Himalayan Balsam pulling further up the river and cutting back including the path to the life belt at small pond. Litter picking.	16
18 Aug 24	6	Scything workshop.	39
1 Sept 24	10	Litter picking, MOT1 on path by noticeboard by doctors, finishing (mostly) cutting back paths, AGM	20
6 Oct 24	11	Litter picking, more MOT1 on path by noticeboard by doctors , planting primroses, cutting back in front of Holders Woods car park entrance	22
3 Nov 24	13	Thinning out the hazel and willow on path down towards the meadow. Crown lifting the oaks on the meadow. Holly and laurel removal. Litter picking	26
1 Dec 24	14	Willow arch cut back, ditch maintenance, graffiti removal, making wreaths, Litter picking , Christmas snacks.	28
5 Jan 25	0	Cancelled due to poor and snowy weather	0
2 Feb 25	11	Litter pick, first of the drains fixed, 2nd one started. Cut up and stacked fallen bough, planted primrose and bluebells, pulled whips to thin out.	22
2 Mar 24	15	Second Second of the drains fixed, 3rd one started. Planted snowdrops, sowed wildflower seed, litter picked, scythed and raked.	30
9 Mar 25	6	Putting up 10 bird boxes with Ranger Dean	12
6 April 25	13	Litter pick, course of bricks on last drain, repair to gas building door, graffiti removal, path clearing down meadow path, invasive plant removal under birdbox 10	26
11 May 25	9	Raking the early cut meadow and sowing additional seeds, litter picking	18
1 June 25	17	mulched trees, scraped ditches, cleared path through the woods, litter picked	34

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This shows that since the last AGM [between us](#) we have volunteered 307 hours (up from 246 in 2023-24) [in](#) 11 scheduled sessions (January being cancelled due to inclement weather) and the [2](#) additional sessions added in August 2024 for Scything

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Workshop and March 2025 for bird box siting. The scheduled sessions are calculated by the number of people x 2 hours a session. These are just the hours as a group and don't include the set up / clean up after sessions; admin behind the scenes; additional meetings; extra time people spend on the site between sessions. **Many thanks for all the extra time people spend on our woods!**

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6. Finance

a). Treasurer's report (full detail at the end of these notes)

(Note- all figures are rounded to the nearest whole number)

We started the year from 1st June 2024 with a balance of £1029.

Credit

Helen obtained a Lottery grant of £3190 starting on 14/6/24. We also had £10 per month funding from BOSF (£120 over 13 months). Sarah Moss gave us a percentage of the profits from sales of her prints of Holders Woods (£150 to date).

Debit

The lottery grant was primarily for the scything course and equipment, more litter pickers, and drain covers, as well as bird boxes and wildflowers. Most of these have been obtained and used, the main exception being the hand-push mower which is no longer thought necessary. We have therefore spent £2708 and have £480 of the grant left.

Some items, not originally on the grant have been purchased. These are timber and stone, shed insurance and small sums for poster printing, refills for first aid kits and laminating sheets - a total of ~ £190.

Net Balance

We end the year to 30th June 2025, with a net balance of £1590.

Update 07/09/25

In July we spent £76 on linseed oil and gardening gloves, and received £30 from BOSF, so now have £1545

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b). We were unsuccessful in a bid to get funding to set up a website but will continue to try other avenues. The bid was unsuccessful as it requested cover for 5 years website hosting. The grant body we bid to wanted all spend to be made in 2 years. Helen is planning to speak to 'Get Grants' for further advice. **ACTION Helen**

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c). Other funding streams

Helen described the Birmingham Community Lottery and how we could get some money for HWC. Members agreed she could investigate further. **ACTION Helen.**

Kevin will look into a scheme he has heard about through his railway volunteering where volunteer hours can be turned into cash. **ACTION Kevin**

7. Insurance

As in previous years, our [safety](#) insurance is covered by BOSF (Birmingham Open Spaces Forum). This is an incorporated organisation that supports small volunteer groups, like us, to function safely. We will stay with them as long as we are allowed, as minimum insurance for us is approximately £190 per year. Note: we cannot work at height or with powered tools. Nor can we work with under 18s. However, we can signpost them to other groups that specialise in family and young person activities, such as Highbury Orchard.

We also continue to have insurance for our tool shed and tools. There is a £100 excess for any claim, but if we suffer an expensive loss this will still be good to have. Cost this year was ~~£50~~.

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Note we do try to make sure we can see all our tools where we are working and count out and in during the session.

8. First Aid courses renewal

Our Level 3 Emergency First Aid At Work and Forestry First Aid runs out on 1st April 2026. The 6 persons of HWC already trained were willing to renew their certificate. These are Eva, Peter, Anne, Ian, Barry and Helen. Fiona said she was happy to be trained if needed. [Kevin suggested that others may wish to be trained when the dates and further details are known.](#) We are happy to offer any spare places to other groups for a small payment to cover costs.

Helen to discuss a grant application [for this](#) with Get Grants. **ACTION Helen.** This training will probably be for First Aid at Work only and not Forestry First Aid. [\(Note- Last time the course cost £600 plus £325 for hire of the venue, but this included time on Forestry First Aid\)](#)

9. Policies for review and adoption

- a) Health and Safety policy. This has been reviewed to remove explicit references to Covid and make some small amendments. Adopted by the members.
- b) Risk Assessment Form. Again explicit mentions of Covid have been removed. Adopted by the members.
- c) Risk Assessment for Scything. This is a new form as our trained scythers may work at times when the main group is not operating. Adopted by the members. Please read [all](#) these if you haven't already done so. **ACTION All**

10. Reminder of Coffee Morning

This will again be run by BOSF on Thursday 11th of September, from 11_am – 12:30. What3Words location [fruit.winks.photo](#) in the clearing opposite our repaired bench, close to the small pond. Kevin, Anne and Eva to help support on the day from 10.30. Any cakes/biscuits gratefully received by Helen. Please let her know if you

are able to contribute. Holders Woods receives £40 from BOSF toward tea and coffee etc. **ACTION All.** Helen to take A5 posters with dates for the rest of this year.
ACTION Helen

11. Plans for next year

An open discussion generated the following ideas and thoughts for future activities. Discuss coppicing between Brockley Grove and the river with Jan Tomlinson, the Ranger. **ACTION Helen**

Fiona will continue to report Japanese Knotweed to the Council. Fiona to send the map of the knotweed for 2025 to members so any additional sightings can be sent to Fiona using the What3Words position. **ACTION Fiona, ACTION All**

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Suggestion made that more snowdrops be planted along with bluebells, especially on the covenanted land between the surgery and the next house on Moor Green Lane.

12. AOB

Helen has a meeting with Birmingham Tree People who are planning to do a tree trail for Holders Woods showing trees of interest. This will be added to other trails on their website. <https://birminghamtreepeople.org.uk/trees-in-birmingham/tree-trails/> If anyone has any folklore or special information to share about any of the trees please let Helen know. **ACTION All.**

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Signed by Chair

Date

Accounts June 2025 – June 2025

Date	Item	Credit	Debit	Balance
01 06 2024				1,028.76
05 06 2024	Laminating sheets-Amazon		9.99	1,018.77
08 06 2024	First aid kit refill- St John's ambulance		30.54	988.23
14 06 2024	New grant	3,190.00		4,178.23
26 06 2024	BOSF	10		4,188.23
17 07 2024	BOSF	10		4,198.23
22 08 2024	Scything course		510	3,688.23
13 08 2024	Litter pickers		300	3,388.23
13 08 2024	Printigo- poster printing		12	3,376.23
28 08 2023	BOSF	10		3,386.23
01 09 24	Scythe Cwymru- scythes etc.		871.6	2,514.63
1 09 24	Ebay- flat files		9.95	2,504.68
1 09 24	Selco Timber and MOT stone		87.17	2,417.51
4 09 24	Gumtree Drill		30	2,387.51
20 09 2024	BOSF	10		2,397.51
04 10 24	Selco-Road stone		17.23	2,380.28
10 10 24	BOSF	10		2,390.28
27 11 24	BOSF	10		2,400.28
06 12 24	Moss, prints	80		2,480.28
18 12 24	BOSF	10		2,490.28
07 01 25	LandlifewildWildflower- plants		97.99	2,392.29
19 01 2025	Manhole covers etc		317.16	2,075.13
22 01 2025	BOSF	10		2,085.13
21 02 2025	Bird boxes		249.9	1,835.23
25 01 2025	Screwfix Bits for manhole cover		25.25	1,809.98
25 01 2025	wire for bird box- toolstation		3.28	1,806.70
02 02 2025	Screws for drains		8.28	1,798.42
09 02 2025	Sand, cement etc for drains		14.85	1,783.57
17 02 2025	Plate washers for manhole covers		10.99	1,772.58
27 02 2025	BOSF	10		1,782.58
03 03 2025	3rd Manhole cover etc		207.12	1,575.46
14 03 2025	Selco- mudguard washers		2.82	1,572.64
17 03 2025	Field study guides		12	1,560.64
18 03 2025	BOSF	10		1,570.64
09 05 2025	Moss, prints	25		1,595.64
12 05 2025	BOSF	20		1,615.64
15 05 2025	Scything certificates		20	1,595.64
15 05 2025	Shed Insurance- Scout		50.05	1,545.59
30 06 2025	Moss, prints	45		1,590.59