

## **Friends of Summers Field AGM**

**24 March 2026, 7pm, Doynton Village Hall**

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Introductions and welcome**

Ron welcomed Barbara Kent, David Vaudrey and Lee Whitbread to the meeting and thanked them for coming along.

Those present on the Summer's Field Committee: Ron Ritchie, Chris Sherman, Jenny Bartram and Diana Ashman

Apologies for absence: Corrinda Wakefield-Wylde, Lisa Williams and Helen Barnes

#### **2. Review of previous AGM Minutes (25 March 2025)**

Ron took us through the minutes of the previous minutes and gave a brief update upon matters arising.

- Working in close collaboration with Derek Girling, the Summer's Field presence on the Doynton Village website has been updated and enhanced to give members of the public greater insight into the work of the FOSF.
- The signatories on the Bank account have been reset to reflect the recent changes to members on the committee and the Trustees.
- Chris Sherman is still dealing with HMRC on gift aid and other historical taxation matters, which he explained in detail to those present.
- Ron talked about a successful visit to Corston Orchard and briefly outlined ideas for a wildlife camera project in our own orchard, which is now underway. (See below)
- Attempts have been made by Lisa to establish links between Wick Primary School, although, as yet, our offer has not yet been taken up.
- Helen sent out our annual newsletter at the end of the summer, resulting in several generous donations.
- Barbara kindly linked us up with John House, who kindly produced a kestrel box, which is now installed in the orchard. John was present whilst the box was installed and offered helpful advice from the friendship bench. The day and John, who has sadly now died, is fondly remembered by us all.
- New signs directing pet owners to the dog poo bin have been put up.

#### **3. Review of committee roles**

Ron thanked all members of the committee for working so hard together to make the past year such a success.

- Ron was formally endorsed as chair by those present, with his initial appointment dating from the AGM in 2025.
- Jenny continues in the role of treasurer, which she has been fulfilling since December 2023. Her appointment was endorsed at the AGM in 2025 again in 2026.
- Diana, who was also appointed as Secretary in December 2023 and whose appointment was endorsed at the AGM in 2025, continues in 2026.
- Chris Sherman was appointed as a fourth officer on the committee in the role of Gift Aid Secretary. This was approved at the AGM in 2026.

#### **4. Elect new committee members** (if appropriate).

Ron celebrated the efforts and contribution of all committee members over the past year and this was echoed by those members of the public who were present. It was agreed by those present the number of committee members should remain the same.

#### **5. Annual Report** (Chair and others) shows what we have achieved over the year.

Ron went through the main headlines of the annual report. He warmly acknowledged the significant contributions made by partners, who give so much time and support to the FOSF.

As a result of the visit to the community orchard at Corston, we are in the process of installing a wildlife camera which members of the public will be able to connect to via an app.

Information boards were installed in September, helping members of the public to connect with the wildlife in the orchard.

With a bumper harvest in 2025, the juicing went really well and all stock has now been sold, adding a good amount to our funds.

Our Wassail was very well attended in January (2026), with more members of the public present than ever before.

Finances are healthy due to fundraising and some generous donations.

As mentioned above, there is now more information about the orchard on the Doynton Village website, which now acts as an archive.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

Jenny advised that, after a lot of dialogue with the bank, the signatories on the account have now been changed to represent changes in roles. Paul and Lisa have been taken off and have been replaced by Ron and Chris.

Jenny noted that the profit from the Humby's tea comes to the FOSF, together with some of the profits from their plant sale. There have also been some 15 generous donations from members of the public as well as a donation from the Doynton Hard Half.

The annual accounts were formally approved.

Jenny also does an annual submission to the Charity Commission.

Chris updated the meeting on the situation regarding Corporation Tax and Gift Aid submissions. HMRC have not been kept up-to-date with changes in our committee responsibilities, but will not tell us who they currently have recorded as authorised signatories or 'responsible persons'.

To try to reset our records with HMRC, Chris has completed a new set of signing mandates, with Ron and Jenny as responsible persons and himself as the person authorised to claim Gift Aid. We have also asked that Paul Drayton, Lisa Williams and Rebecca Glass be removed from the system – if, indeed, they are on it.

Paper forms and a covering letter have been produced, as we do not have anyone authorised to access the online system, and these were signed at the meeting.

#### **6. Future developments**

These were outlined by Ron with contributions from others

#### **7. AOB**

There was none and the meeting was closed.

## **Friends of Summers Field Committee Minutes**

**24 March 2026, Doynton Village Hall**

### **1. Minutes from 11 Nov and matters arising**

The minutes from 11th November were agreed.

- Gift for Paul - placed on hold
- The Orchard plan - placed on hold until there are more members present in a future committee meeting.
- Wildlife camera - Ron will chase up next week

### **2. Use of donations**

Our large donation of £500 has been earmarked for the purchase of spring bulbs, which meets the request of the donor who would like the money to be spent on something which will enhance the flora and fauna of the orchard.

Other funds to be allocated to the installation of a good quality picnic bench. Ron will research.

### **3. Future events until July 2026**

- Cream Tea (19th April)

Jenny pointed out that there is a potential problem with manpower to make it happen due to the incapacity of some committee members to lift and carry. Ron suggested hiring some manpower from amongst village teenagers. He is happy also to provide gazebos. Jenny will liaise with Corrinnda re use of her kitchen and will send out a plea for help with carrying to village teenagers. Ron will donate his phone to use sum up and he will take the money on the day.

- Committee Meeting (28 April) in the pub (Ron will book)
- Dawn Chorus (10 May).

5am start planned. Bring along Phones, cameras and binoculars. This is to be an open event in Summer's field and, with her permission, in Barbara's wood. Event to be followed by a breakfast in the village hall (rolls and sausages). Publicity for the event via village WhatsApp. Advance notification of attendance will be required by DM due to catering and dietary requirements.

- Old Rectory Teas (9 & 20 June) Lisa to organise
- July Committee and bat evening (date tbc) - John and Corrinnda to look into.
- Maintenance needed (ongoing) - work party ahead of the cream tea. 12th April at 10.30 am to trim and tidy around the new trees.

### **Actions**

- Ron – follow up installation of wildlife camera, research sum up on phone for cream tea and provide gazebo, book pub for Committee meeting
- Jenny - liaise with Corrinnda re cream tea and source large tables. Enlist help of others to help with set-up and stowing away. Publicise event and organise food/drink.
- Chris - check availability of the village hall for our Dawn Chorus event and research possible source of spring bulbs
- Diana - organise and publicise Dawn Chorus event. Ask Barbara's permission to use her wood.
- Corrinnda - look into bat evening
- Lisa - Teas at the Humby's
- All committee members - Work party in the orchard 12th April

