

Friends of Cabrera Trust and Woods
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th March, 2026

Present: George Biswas (*Chair*)
Peter Try (*Treasurer*)

(*Committee Members*):

Freda Larham,
Liz Copping,
Phillip Beesley,
Jane Broadbent,
Rob Mucklow

Pam Thomas, *Volunteer Organiser*
Jeff Turner, *Technical support*
Myra Owen, *Honorary Warden*
Karin Rowsell, Chris Howorth, *Runnymede Borough Councillors*
Jonathan Hulley, *Surrey County Councillor*

Friends and Members of the general public.

Meeting:

The Chair provided a report on activities noting the following:

- Thanks to all who had attended the meeting
- Thanks to those who had volunteered and those who had donated to the funds on either a regular or one-off basis.
- Thanks to the Runnymede officers and the Open Spaces team for their support.

- The bridge nearest the station path has been refurbished and thanks to some substantial donations the Friends had been able to substantially support this project.

- The regular working groups of volunteers continue with the support of the Open Spaces team. A diversion of the footpath had recently been completed to protect the environment provided by an old and valuable dead oak tree. This to protect the environment provided for diverse wildlife and to protect walkers from the possible danger of branches falling from the tree.

- It was noted that some final work had been completed by a member of the committee to remove an emergent trip hazard found after the work had been completed.

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Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented the Financial Report (*available on the website*) and noted the following:

- The transfer of funds from the 'Friends' to the Trustees had been instrumental in ensuring that there had been no drawdown from the capital fund held by the Trust this year.
- The RBC review of the allocated cost of administering the Cabrera Trust and Woods had benefited the Trust and this was appreciated.
- Donations were slightly lower than previous years, but there had been no Virginia Water Trail in the past year, and it is hoped that this will be held in 2026 and therefore increase the amount of funds raised.

Councillors:

The local Councillors gave their thanks to all concerned and provided us with an update on the possibilities that might arise from the institution of the Unitary Authority. The actual outcome will not be known for some time, but all Councillors pledged to continue their support. It was suggested it will be important for the Community to engage with the Neighbourhood plan which may well provide a cornerstone for local voices to be heard.

Jonathan Hulley reminded us that the Surrey County Council Community Fund was open for one last year should we wish to take advantage of this.

AGREED: the next 'Friends' committee meeting to consider possibilities.

Questions and Discussions from the floor:

Much discussion related to the changes that instigation of the Unitary authority would entail. It was not possible to agree any actions at this stage due to the fluidity of the situation.

A member of the public had contacted Peter Try to ask whether an entrance to the Woods could be reopened. It was noted that this was the business of the Management Committee, not the 'Friends', and a response would be forwarded to this effect.

It was suggested that signage at the entrances to the woods could be provided to alert members of the public as to who to contact on issues such as fallen trees or vandalism were encountered.

AGREED: to take the suggestion to the Trust AGM/Management Committee meeting in July. If this was agreed the 'Friends' could work to find ways to fund the production of appropriate signage and its installation.

The AGM ended at 20:25.