

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of AGM held Wednesday 18th April 2018

Somerset Earth Sciences Centre Moon's Hill Quarry Stoke St Michael

1. Chairman :- Welcome and apologies for absence

Present : Richard Raynsford (chairman) Bo Walsh (Secretary and Mendip District Council) Peter Banks (Treasurer) Mary Newman (Membership) Lucy Chard Janet Raynsford Jennie O'Kane Lila Morris (Somerset Wildlife Trust) Adel Avery (SESC) Rick Gledhill Matt Brookbank Kevin Gibbs Audrey Truan

Apologies : Jake and Victoria Britten Nicola Stoate Paul Allen (Woodland Trust) Mark Adler Paul Newman Roy Vbranch Graham Price Kaye Watts (Forest School co-ordinator) Lesley Rowan Paula Jordan Christine Mayle Marion Black

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

3. Matters arising from the minutes and not on the Agenda - NONE

4. Peter spoke to the members present to explain the reasoning behind the proposed revision of the constitution. The proposed revision had been circulated to members prior to the AGM. Rick Gledhill pointed out an anomaly in paragraph 11 – the word “executive” should be removed in keeping with the proposed change of title in paragraph 2. It was agreed that this had been a proof reading omission. Rick Gledhill proposed the new constitution, Lucy Chard seconded. Carried.

5. Officers Reports :

Chairman : Richard welcomed all present and thanked Lila Morris and Adel Avery for their presentations on behalf of Somerset Wildlife Trust - Living Landscapes and The Bats of Harridge Wood -at the beginning of the evening, both of which were very much enjoyed. He reflected that the Society was active and 2018 was likely to be busy with the implementation of some of the Woodland Trust Management Plan.

Secretary : Bo confirmed that some of the events which had been scheduled prior to the AGM had taken place in spite of the poor weather. The Society is still liaising with Sharon Blyth of SPARK and it is expected that Committee members will meet with her at a suitable date in the near future. He informed the Society that he would be standing down at this AGM and would not be standing for re-election. Richard thanked him for all his help and wished him well.

Treasurer : a hard copy statement of account was made available to the members present. Peter confirmed that the 2017/2018 year had started with a bank balance of £749.54. Outgoings totalled £162.11, including a shortfall from the Dennis Hill bequest of £250 being met by the Society, and Income totalled £224.00. The closing balance is £811.43. Please contact Peter direct if you would like to see a full copy of the accounts.

Membership : There are 37 members at present

Web Master/Social Media : this remains a vacant post

All officers stood down

ELECTIONS

Position		Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Richard Raynsford	Jennie O’Kane	Rick Gledhill
Secretary	Lesley Stewart	Peter Banks	Bo Walsh
Treasurer/M’ship	Peter Banks	Mary Newman	Lucy Chard
Events Co-ordinator	Mary Newman	Lucy Chard	Janet Raynsford
Publicity	Matt Brookbank	Peter Banks	Bo Walsh

Three remaining committee posts remain vacant at present

6. The dates and times for the future meetings (3 monthly) of the Society were presented. It was suggested that dates should be circulated to members to see whether alternative dates would be more acceptable and might encourage more attendance.

Meetings : Wednesday July 18th

Wednesday October 17th

Wednesday January 16th 2019

All meetings will take place at the Somerset Earth Science Centre from 7pm.

7. Subscriptions will remain at £5.00 per person

8. Following a litter pick, LS suggested that it might be of benefit if fencing could be erected around the pond which is alongside the main road. The Society will liaise with Paul Allen (Woodland Trust) to see whether this could be incorporated into the current Management Plan

9. The Mid Somerset (Shepton Mallet) Show will take place on Sunday 19th August. It is proposed that the Society will, again, use the boards which have been made up. These were praised by all present; however there was a suggestion that further photographs and other information could be used. RR asked for volunteers to man the stand. The matter will be put on the agenda for the next meeting in July

10. Updates

(i) Litter pick (February) – this was a success with half a dozen bags of litter collected.

(ii) Forest School (30th March) – MN confirmed that this took place, in spite of the weather. 10 families attended and took part in a “Character Teddy Trail” and other events. There may be some photos available from the event which can be utilised as they will not breach Data Protection legislation.

(iii) Health/History Walk (7th April) – The day was enjoyed by all who took part and the weather was acceptable. Again, there are photos available whose use will not breach Data Protection legislation.

(iv) Geology Walk (7th April) – this was the second of the scheduled walks. The first was cancelled because of the very poor weather. Roy Vbranch led a walk from Cranmore Woods towards Tadhil. A very interesting walk and it is hoped that others can be arranged in the future

11. Future events/activities/projects

(i) Some of the Committee members will try and meet with Sharon Blyth of SPARK to gain some insights into bringing the Society to a wider audience, through Social media etc

(ii) Paul Allen is the new officer dealing with the Management Plan for the woods. PB raised a suggestion that Chris Smith would be happy to produce a revision of his Eco Survey of the woods which could be used in discussion with the Woodland Trust (Paul Allen) in reference to the Management Plan. There would be a cost involved but it may be that the Woodland Trust/Wildlife Trust/Parish Council/Mendip District Council would be prepared to contribute. BW queried whether we should, in the first instance, discover whether the Woodland Trust would consider a further revision of the original Eco Survey or if, perhaps, this was already being undertaken by them? LC raised the question of whether the Woodland Trust would accept such revision if it was funded by the Society?

Paul Allen is to walk the woods at some point in the future – such questions could be raised with him then.

(iii) Fungal Foray – this has been a success in previous years. The Society will contact Len Cloutman again. TBC

(iv) Bluebell survey – MN is to liaise with Lila Morris (Somerset Wildlife Trust). Lila will visit the woods and advise.

Any other Business

(i) BW told the members that a professional photographer was using the woods for a private instruction shoot. It was suggested that it may be possible for members who were interested to undertake something similar, with a view to producing photos for a future calendar.

(ii) The possibility of arranging a “Bat Walk” with Adel Avery through Harridge Woods was suggested as was a suggestion for a “Moth Walk” in Beacon Hill Woods. TBA

Next Meeting: Wednesday July 18th 7pm Somerset Earth Sciences Centre, Moon’s Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael

Meeting closed at 21.20pm