

D R A F T

**THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY**

**Minutes of AGM held Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

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

Members enjoyed a talk about Frome Bats in Care, presented by Liz Eeley and Peter Gulliver and accompanied by their (very hungry) "educator bats" who were affectionately referred to by Liz as "the halt and the lame" as all of them had been rescued and, whilst now healthy, were no longer able to survive in the wild.

1. Chairman :- Richard Raynsford opened the meeting at 20.15hrs, thanking Liz and Peter for their presentation and welcoming all members present.

Present : Richard Raynsford (Chairman); Peter Banks (Treasurer/Membership); Lesley Stewart (Secretary); Mary Newman (Events co-ordinator); Matt Brookbank (Publicity/Website); Bo Walsh (Mendip District Council Tree Officer); Fran Britten; Janet Raynsford; Margaret Hares; Paul Newman; Jennie O'Kane; Nicola Stoa; Jo Baverstock.

Apologies : Paul Allen (Woodland Trust); Marion Black; Lucy Chard; Paula Jordan; Rick Gledhill

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters arising from the minutes and not on the Agenda :

The litter pick had taken place as scheduled in February and all the rubbish which had been collected was removed. Matt noted that Paul Allen of the Woodland Trust had sent thanks to the Society and in view of the amount of rubbish collected the WT would now schedule more regular litter picks.

**4. Officers Reports :**

Chairman: Richard told the meeting that, having been Chairman for 7 years, he would not be standing for re-election and thanked all officers past and present who had aided him during his tenure.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Treasurer/Membership: Peter informed the members that at the end of the Society's year there were now 24 members.

Income for the Society was £120, the sale of booklets raised £22. Expenditure was approximately £95 which included the new signage at the entrance to the Woods. The closing credit balance for the Society account was £863.94.

A cheque for £250.00 from Rod Hill for the Dennis Hill Bequest would be received in due course but is not yet on the Bank statement.

Please contact Peter direct if would like to see a full copy of the accounts.

The accounts were accepted.

Events: Mary told the meeting about the forthcoming visit by St Aldhelm's Key Stage 2 (years 3-6) pupils to the Wood which is funded by the Dennis Hill bequest.

Publicity/Web site manager: Matt confirmed that the website is running successfully and it is updated with regular information and pictures. He also told the members that the Society has been asked if it will relocate its website with a new host. Matt has investigated this and told members that this would cost approximately £45.00 for 3 years. He has agreed to undertake the move and members were happy with the proposed costs.

### **All officers stood down**

### **ELECTIONS**

<b>Position</b>		<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
Chairman	Matt Brookbank	Peter Banks	Mary Newman
Secretary	Lesley Stewart	Jennie O'Kane	Paul Newman
Treasurer/M.ship	Peter Banks	Paul Newman	All members were unanimous
Events Co-ord.	Mary Newman	Paul Newman	All members were unanimous
Website/Publicity	Matt Brookbank	Paul Newman	All members were unanimous

Three remaining committee posts remain vacant at present.

### **5. Dates for meetings for the coming year 2019/2020**

Meetings: Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

**AGM** Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2020

All meetings will take place at the Somerset Earth Sciences Centre commencing 7.00pm.

**6. Subscriptions** will remain at £5.00 pa. per person.

### **7. Beacon Hill Society – events/projects**

(a) The Society will be present at the Mid-Somerset Show on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. New booklets are being prepared by Peter and Matt and will be printed in readiness for the event.

(b) Mary confirmed that she and Matt will be undertaking the bluebell survey at the Woods, using the GPS equipment that has been supplied. Matt will put the information up on the website, if appropriate.

Mary also confirmed that the St Aldhelm's Primary School visit to the Woods will be taking place again this year, with the aid of the Dennis Hill Bequest.

Another Fungal Foray has been arranged for the 20<sup>th</sup> October starting at 10.00am. Les Cloutman has kindly agreed that this can be open to the general public as well as members/family of the Society. It was suggested that a poster for this event could be attached to the notice board at the entrance to the Woods.

(c) Jennie O’Kane asked whether the Society members would be interested in visiting the wild flower meadows etc by kind permission of Liz and Peter (of Frome Bats in Care). Peter and Liz were happy to extend the invitation. The date is to be arranged, possibly in June.

(d) Bo Walsh has agreed to look at organising another party in the Woods. Date : TBA

(e) Matt offered to present a history talk on the Wood as there is now much more information about the finds made there previously. Date: TBA

### **Any Other Business**

1. Matt told the meeting about the late arrived email from Paul Allen. He apologised for not attending the meeting but extended thanks for the litter pick which had been undertaken in February. Paul also made reference to an ecological survey being outsourced by the Woodland Trust in respect of the Woods. Members were made aware that Chris Smith was unable to undertake this due to a change in his personal circumstances. However, there was no definite information provided as to who would be doing this, when it was likely to take place and who would be footing the bill.

Paul also confirmed that the Management Plan has been adjusted by the Woodland Trust. This led to a brief discussion among members about the continuing lack of communication with the Trust via Paul Allen. Peter confirmed that he had spoken with other groups about the Society concerns with the Woodland Trust but this had not met with much success. It was suggested by members that an approach could be made to Mendip District Council with our concerns. Bo offered his assistance in this. Matt confirmed that he would be attempting to speak with Paul by telephone over the coming weeks, to try and get some lines of communication open.

2. Mary reported that the local quarry had organised clearing of rubbish from the Waggon and Horses pub to the Lavender Farm.

3. The complaint concerning diggers being in the Woods was resolved – they were dealing with a problem along the gas main which runs through the Woods. Although no-one in the Society had been made aware that access was required, the Woodland Trust had made keys available.

4. On behalf of the members, Bo expressed the Society’s thanks to Richard for his chairmanship over the preceding 7 years.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday July 10th 7pm Somerset Earth Sciences Centre, Moon’s Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael**

Meeting closed at 21.05pm

*FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES*

*Wildlife talk and Walk courtesy of Liz and Peter of Frome Bats in Care @ Great Elm. Date to be arranged (possibly June)*

*Mid Somerset Show – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August (at the new venue)*

*Fungal Foray – 10<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00am*

*History of the Woods – talk by Matt Brookbank. Date to be arranged.*