

# THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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## Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at Doultling Village Hall

**Present:** Peter Banks (Secretary), Alan Stone (Chairman), Julian Back, Brenda Rogers, Peter Leach, Fran Britten, Jon Burgess (Woodland Trust), Jennie O’Kane, Christine Mayle, Caroline Gentinetta (Editor), Mary Newman (Treasurer, Mem. Sec & Doultling PC), Bo Walsh (MDC), Barry Pitcher, Alan Connock, Prue Piper, Paul Newman

**Apologies:** Richard Raynsford, Elizabeth Gibbs

1. **Minutes of previous meeting 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2011:** The previous minutes were accepted

2. **Matters arising:** None

3. **Officers reports:**

**Chairman:** Alan Stone thanked those who had supported the Society over the past year and especially Peter Banks for his past 10 years as secretary. Alan presented Peter with a Chew Valley Tree Voucher as a token of our appreciation for all his work.

**Secretary:** Peter Banks confirmed there had been 3 Society meetings since the AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> Mar’10 last year:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, in the wood at 4.00pm, followed by 6.00pm at the Waggon & Horses. A Newsletter and minutes of the AGM, went out with the notice for this meeting.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, at the Waggon & Horses at 7.30pm.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011, at the Poachers Pocket. This followed a meeting in the wood at 2.00pm for some litter picking and a look at the progress on the thinning work at the East end of the wood. A copy of the new Booklet – Beacon Hill, Mendip, was circulated to all members with the notice for this meeting.

Peter confirmed he had not been able to commit as much time as he would have liked to Society activities, other than the more formal tasks of meeting notices, minutes, etc., he had spent some time on preparing the Booklet for publication; Peter thanked Alan Stone for getting the Booklet printed, and Jennie O’Kane in particular for circulating copies in the Frome area.

Finally Peter thanked everyone for the support and encouragement he had received during his ten years as secretary of the Beacon Hill Society.

**Treasurer:** Mary Newman circulated copies of this the Financial Statement for the year to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011; copies available to members on request. The Society has a total balance of £639.30 in its accounts.

**Membership Secretary:** Mary Newman announced that we have had 30 members during 2010 and reminded members that subscriptions for 2011 are now due.

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**Editor:** Caroline Gentinetta told us that she had been waiting for the outcome of the AGM before starting on a new newsletter, She also requested articles for the next newsletter.

4. **Election of Officers** the following committee was elected:

**Chairman:** Richard Raynsford, proposed by Caroline Gentinetta, 2nded by Jennie O'Kane

**Secretary:** Julian Back, proposed by Jennie O'Kane, 2nded by Christine Mayle

**Treasurer:** Peter Banks, proposed by Alan Stone, 2nded by Alan Connock

**Membership Secretary:** Mary Newman offered to continue and was duly elected for a further term

5. **Future organisation of the society and subscription rate**

No significant changes in organisation are proposed. The subscription rate is unchanged at £5.00 per year.

Due to the increasing cost of postage it was decided to communicate with members by email when possible. If you have received these minutes by post and have an email address please consider letting us save money by using email in future. Please send your email address to the secretary: julian.back@gmail.com

6. **Any other business**

**Articles for the newsletter:**

Jon Burgess offered an article on the thinning work.

**Future Events:**

Shepton TIC summer walk to be led by Alan Stone, date to be confirmed. Problems with parking for this type of event were discussed.

Fungus foray in autumn, Julian Back to contact Les Cloutman to arrange a date.

Further clearing of rubbish from Yellingmill Lane end of the Fosse Way, to be done in the autumn when vegetation has died down. It was suggested that we try to get some publicity (e.g. local papers, Mendip Times) for this work.

Hedge laying once the rubbish has been cleared. Fran Britten knew of a hedge laying expert.

**Update on thinning work in the wood:**

Jon Burgess told us that the thinning work was now complete and the remaining cut wood would be sold to a local firewood merchant. The Woodland Trust has made a small profit on the work which was what he had expected. The difference between the areas logged by horse and

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tractor were described, the horses had much less impact on the wood but the ruts left by the tractors would disappear in a few years and anyway they provide another habitat.

## **Asham Wood:**

Fran Britten raised her concerns about the state of Asham Wood. Asham Wood is an SSSI but 4x4 vehicles are causing serious damage. The shooting syndicate are removing trees which is allowing the 4x4s to access other areas which include an Iron Age camp. Some members offered to visit Asham Wood with Fran and to help publicise the situation and they will meet at Shute Farm Studios on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.

## **Lidar Survey of the Mendips:**

Peter Banks informed the meeting that a Lidar survey including the Beacon Hill area had been performed and offered to try and get a copy of the relevant area for the Society.

## **7. Next Meeting**

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 7.30pm at the Poachers Pocket, Chelynch

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