

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 8.00pm on Monday 20th April 2009 at the Kings Arms, Leg Square, Shepton Mallet.

Present: Julian Back, Peter Banks (Secretary), Eileen Bird, Jon Burgess (Woodland Trust), Krysia Couldrey, Caroline Gentinetta (Editor), Phillip Malcolm, Christine Mayle, Mary Newman (Treasurer, MemSec & Doulling P.C.), Jennie O'Kane, Sheila Petherbridge (MDC), Brenda Rogers, Alan Stone (Chairman).

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 8.00pm. Apologies had been received from, David Brown, Peter Leach, Betty Palmer-Horsey and Alan Connock.

2. Officers Reports:

Chairman: Alan Stone thanked those who had supported the Society over the past year, particularly in view of the persistent wet weather,

Secretary: Peter Banks confirmed there had been 4 committee meetings, including the AGM, over the past year. The Society display boards had been set up at the Midsomerset Show as usual and then moved to the Old Post Office in Shepton Mallet Market Place where the Local History Society have use of the display windows.

Further Aggregate Levy funded archaeological investigations were carried out in early September, again in disappointingly wet weather, and further valuable information gained; but no artefacts. A Family Tree Quiz event was held in October but not as well supported as might be hoped. PB also expressed disappointment that no volunteers had stepped forward to co-ordinate future archaeological activity at a meeting held on the topic at the Wells and Mendip Museum.

Treasurer: Mary Newman circulated a financial statement (copies available to members on request) which showed the Society had enjoyed a small increase in funds over the past year. Archaeological activity had again been supported by generous grants from the Somerset Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (SALSF) and Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society (SANHS).

Membership: Mary Newman reported a total membership list of 42; 32 subscribing, 7 representing various Local Councils and other interested bodies, plus 3 hon. members.

Editor: Caroline Gentinetta reported a further newsletter was in course of preparation.

3. General Discussion on the organisation of the Society:

PB proposed circulating Society papers by email to those with the facilities and who were happy to use this method, to others he was happy to continue with posted meeting notices, etc. This was agreed, however the Newsletter would always be printed and posted to all members.

The Newsletter was proving difficult to produce at regular intervals, mainly due to the shortage of articles for publication. Given that all members were kept up-to-date with Society activities via Meeting Notices and Minutes, it was agreed to limit the Newsletter to one a year (following the AGM); this would go out to all members with a final subscription reminder if necessary.

MN pointed out that our litter picking session had been late this year (1st March) and a certain amount of damage was caused to new growth; it was agreed to hold this in January in future.

JBack confirmed he was happy to continue to update the website, the dates of future events could be included and further updates on the archaeological project were needed.

4. Election of Officers:

The following committee was elected:

Chairman; Alan Stone offered to continue and was duly elected for a further term.

Secretary; Peter Banks offered to continue and was duly elected for a further term.

Treasurer; Mary Newman confirmed she would continue if no-one else came forward and was duly elected for a further term.

Mems. Secretary; Mary Newman offered to continue and was duly elected for a further term.

Editor; Caroline Gentinetta offered to continue and was duly elected for a further term.

Webmaster; Julian Back offered to continue and was duly elected for a further term.

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5. Future Events and Activities:

Arrangements for the National Family Week event in Beacon Hill Wood on 27th May were discussed and Jon Burgess provided some information posters to be placed locally; several members present took copies and offered to help on the day. The date, to coincide with the half-term holiday, was also being advertised on the NFW website. There would be a repeat of the Tree Quiz for children plus volunteer guides would be on hand at several locations around the route to point out features of historic interest.

JBu also confirmed that the levelling of ruts in the hollow-way would be carried out by a contractor during the month of May following which it was agreed that the Road-Up Gang would be welcome to complete detail work over one weekend.

Reinterment of the remains found in the Bronze Age urn, discovered in 2007, would go ahead at 6.00pm on mid-summers day (21st June). The replica urn produced earlier at Shute Farm Studio would be used and the wording on a plaque, to be included with it, was agreed at the meeting.

PB confirmed that good progress was being made on the preparations for the display of the restored urn at the Wells and Mendip Museum. The display was due to open in mid- August and AS agreed to liase with the team to organise a reception.

6. Date of Next Meeting:

It was agreed to leave the new committee to set a date for the next meeting.