

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting held 8.00pm on Monday 5th April 2004 at the Poachers Pocket, Chelynch.

1. Chairman David Gardiner welcomed 14 members and one guest to the meeting
2. Officers Reports;
 - Membership Secretary Mary Newman reported the Society had 17 paid up members, mostly local but some living as far away as Priddy and Wookey. The Society also extended membership to several specialists for their valuable contributions to the Society past and present.
 - Treasurer/Secretary Peter Banks reported that funds remained healthy, though slightly down on last year. The meeting agreed there was no need to increase subscriptions at this time; it being expected that an anticipated increase in membership would cover the shortfall.
 - Chairman David Gardiner expressed his gratitude to the membership for the support it had given the Society. He thought it had been an enjoyable year with several projects carried out successfully; the work parties to clear brash and litter had made an appreciable improvement to the wood and the public events had made it better known.
3. Election of Officers;
 - Chairman: David Gardiner expressed his willingness to continue for another year. The meeting unanimously supported Mary Newman in proposing David as Chairman for the coming year.
 - Secretary: Peter Banks, on confirming he was prepared to continue as Secretary for the coming year, was duly proposed by David Gardiner and elected unopposed.
 - Treasurer: Peter Banks expressed a wish to hand this role on to another party and proposed Tony Britton for the position. Tony accepted and was duly elected unanimously.
 - Membership Secretary: Mary Newman confirmed she was happy to continue in the role, was duly proposed by David Gardiner and elected unanimously.
4. The proposal to insert the word 'Hill' in the Society's title had been put forward because it had long been felt that the name of the society was rather vague, even evangelical, and did not clearly identify our sense of location. Various other options were considered, such as using 'Wood' as well as or instead of 'Hill', but it was generally agreed that 'Hill' gave sufficient focus for our interests without undue length. The meeting voted by a large majority to adopt the name 'The Beacon Hill Society', with no-one against.
5. There followed a brief discussion on the future direction of the Society.
 - It was agreed to develop the display board which had been put together by Peter Banks and used at a recent exhibition in Oakhill village hall. The board was considered to be a useful way to publicise the Beacon Hill Society in local libraries and other venues where the public and relevant organisations meet.
 - Several proposals were put forward to organise more events for children, to introduce them to the facilities offered by the wood. This was generally accepted with the proviso that strict regulations would have to be followed to ensure their safety.
6. Official business closed at about 8.45pm and after a short break Mr Paul Newman gave an entertaining and interesting talk on ponds, their history and related wildlife. Paul brought along a small aquarium containing live examples of our native species of newt; Smooth, Palmate and Great Crested. These were all examined at close but respectful distance after Paul had given a brief life history of each.

The meeting closed at approx 10.00pm