

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

**Minutes for Beacon Hill Society Meeting held on Wednesday
17th January 2018**

**Somerset Earth Science Centre, Moon's Hill Quarry, Stoke St. Michael
7.00pm**

1. Chairman: Welcome and apologies for absence

Present:- Richard Raynsford (Chairman), Bo Walsh (Secretary), Peter Banks (Treasurer), Fran Britten, Lesley Stewart, Janet Raynsford, Marion Black, Paula Jordan, Lucy Chard, Mary Newman (Membership)

Apologies:- Rick Gledhill, David Van Dyk, Mark Adler, Alan Stone, Rod Hill, Jo Baverstock, Jennie O'Kane, Nicola Stoate, Jake Britten, Victoria Britten, Kaye Watts, Lila Morris, Graham Price, Roy Vranck

2. Minutes of previous meeting (01/11/2017)

These were read and approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes & not on the agenda

None

4. Officers Reports:-

Chairman - A welcome and New Year wishes from Richard. There was nothing further to report

Secretary – Bo informed the meeting that he had been approached by SESC with regard to charging for the use of the facilities for the meetings. Following a brief negotiation on behalf of the Society, Bo reported that SESC were happy to accept £5.00 per general meeting and £35 for the AGM meeting. This is a total of £50 pa. Richard asked Peter whether the Society funds would be able to stand such a cost. Peter confirmed sufficient funds were available. The matter was agreed and approved by the committee.

Jo Smith and Lesley Rowan have requested permission for a Health Walk to take place in the Woods on the 7th April. This has been a previous success and both Richard and Peter agreed to attend and assist. PB asked for help setting up parking markers on the 6th April. RR will assist.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Peter and Mary explained that, due to Mary not having access to or familiarity with the Internet, they felt it was a sensible option to incorporate the two roles under the aegis of the Treasurer. PB is happy to do this. The Committee approved the idea. PB then confirmed that there have been no new members but he has received four (4) membership renewals, totalling £20. Income: the current balance is £806.43.

Web-master / Social Media co-ordinator – Further to the discussion reported in the minutes of 1/11/2017, it was again agreed that Bo would contact Sharon Blyth of SPARK to arrange a weekday meeting in order to discuss how the Society can update and maintain the current web site and social media presence. RR asked that this be dealt with before the AGM (18/4/2018). It was suggested that the Society web address be added to the Woodland Trust board at the entrance to the Woods. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

5. Constitution – update. PB/BW circulated copies of the proposed update of the Constitution. All members present agreed the original document was somewhat out of date.

PB explained the reasoning behind the alterations; there has never been a Vice Chairman so this position could be removed, some of the departments in the local council no longer exist and could be incorporated under a heading of “Mendip District Council”. PB felt the Society should be more representative of the people of Mendip area as there were no longer representatives from several local Parish Councils. RR expressed concern that there may not sufficient members to fill the roles of co-ordinators which have been suggested. Fran Britten offered to take up the position of social co-ordinator but was currently unable to help. This would possibly change in 6 months.

PB confirmed he had spoken with Graham Price (Mendip Society) with regard to the updating of the constitution and had added 2 clauses which had been suggested and which would be of benefit to the Society. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the clauses were a good idea and will remain. PB will make the necessary revisions in readiness for the AGM

6. Updates/news and events:

(i) Despite Paul Allen of Woodland Trust confirming that the Trust litter pick at all their sites, the first Woodland Trust litter pick will not take place until May/June. It was noted that the Woods have a considerable amount of litter at present and in order to clear the litter away from the bluebell glades before they start to bloom it was agreed that a litter pick will take place on 11th February, starting at 10.00am. All welcome

(ii) PB confirmed that he had met with Paul Allen at the Woods to discuss the progress with maintenance of paths, path clearing and tree felling. PB confirmed that the hollow way path and area around the bluebell glade have been scraped and there will be horse drawn logging taking place in the Winter – November, perhaps. There will be a discussion with PA closer to the time with regard to the thinning which is to take place – he prefers an option of removing 1 in 5 trees rather than the proposal by Jo Middleton – and as the Management Plan is an ongoing project, he will liaise with the Society. The possibility of PA leading a walk for Society members was suggested.

(iii) A date and locations for the Geology Field trip have still not been settled. FB is to contact Roy Vranck again.

(iv) RR told the meeting that he knew of a potential new member who may be able to assist with lessons in photography and possibly lead groups in the Woods to take photos for a future calendar. The possibility of setting up a competition – a la Country File – for photos to be used in a calendar was suggested.

(v) BW told the meeting that Kaye Watts was still unwell, although she remained very keen to undertake more Forest Schools. An Easter school was suggested but KW is also having problems with resources (funding). There was a discussion about approaching the Woodland Trust and also asking SPARK whether there was a way of raising funds for future Forest Schools.

7. Any Other Business

- 1.** Fran is to contact the Woodland Trust about a dangerous tree in the Woods – whether they will come to cut it down before it falls.
- 2.** Mary has been approached by St Aldhelm's school at Doulting about another visit to the Woods. She will speak with the Trustees of Dennis Hill for the funding.
- 3.** There was a brief discussion concerning the current situation of the Society having both a Secretary and a Minutes Secretary. PB raised the suggestion that BW stand down and LS take up the position of Secretary, dealing with Minutes, Agendas and organising the quarterly meetings. BW would then be free to undertake a new position as Society Co-ordinator. RR felt this was a subject for the AGM but LS suggested that the Executive Committee could have a position for both – and there were several ideas for titles. PB is to

further revise the Constitution and potential titles for the newly created positions.

Date of Next Meeting

AGM - Wednesday 18th April 2018 @ 7pm. Venue: Somerset Earth Science Centre , Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael

Meeting closed at 20.58pm

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