

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Meeting held 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th November 2015 at the Waggon & Horses, Doultong Beacon.

Present: Richard Raynsford (Chairman), Peter Banks (Treasurer & Acting Secretary), Mary Newman (MemSec.), Fran Britten, Jacob Britten, Christine Mayle, Jennie O'Kane and Bo Walsh.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.45pm.
Apologies received from; Les Cloutman, Paul Newman & Elizabeth Gibbs, Victoria Higgins, Brenda Rogers and Jessica Rothwell.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The Minutes of the last meeting on 29th June 2015 were accepted.
3. **Matters arising, not on the agenda.**
Re item 6; the website had not been updated recently. Lack of contact from our webmaster rather indicated a loss of interest; Fran Britten offered to contact the Shute Farm Studio webmaster to enquire the cost of taking over and updating it.
Re item 7; the display boards were updated on 31st July and we had a good day at the Midsomerset Show, though only 4 new members have resulted.
4. **Officers Reports, including;**
Chairman; RR had nothing to report.
Secretary; PB had arranged for the purchase of a Dog Waste Bin and had installed this with WT Manager Joe Middleton; Mendip D.C. had agreed to regularly empty it.
The 'Family Day' arranged for the 23rd August had to be cancelled due to bad weather.
The Fungus Walk led by Les Cloutman was well attended.
Treasurer; PB updated the meeting on the financial position; expenditure included the purchase of the dog waste bin. A trip to the wood by St Aldhelm's Primary School was funded from the Dennis Hill bequest. Website hosting fees were due soon.
Membership Sec.; MN confirmed 29 subscriptions had been received so far this year.
Webmaster; not present
5. **Society structure and organisation of future activities.** It was agreed the first priority was to find a volunteer to take on the post of Secretary; Bo Walsh offered to take on the role and was gratefully accepted.
Webmaster: As the website does not appear to have been up-dated recently, which might put off new members, it was suggested that current webmaster be contacted to see if they would be happy for new webmaster – possible candidate / person able to up-date, etc Kim Wood (Angel Media) Fran to ask Kim, - someone to talk to Julian (?). The subject of communication via, not only the web-site but using social media (FaceBook, etc. This could be a task for the web-master.
General discussion then centred on the need to encourage other interest groups to liaise with the Society in organising activities in the wood.
It was noted that the purchase of the wood by the Woodland Trust was celebrated at a launch on 1st February 1996 and it was suggested we should commemorate the 20th anniversary.
6. **Future Events and Activities, including;**
 - i. Archaeology. JO'K confirmed Andy Pickering was willing to lead a walk through the wood in the New Year.
 - ii. Maintenance of path and parking area. MN reported the condition of the parking area was badly potholed; BW agreed to contact the Woodland Trust.
 - iii. Forest School – Secretary (BW) to contact Kaye regarding this.

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7. **Any Other Business.** FB noted that members of the public were often seen climbing over the fence by the viewpoint seat into the Barrow Field to the West. Following discussion it was agreed that, if concerned, the landowner needed contact the WT, possibly through the Society, to see what could be done. Jake Britten (JB) agreed to talk to the Perkins family who own Barrow Field to see how they felt about this issue. Joe Middleton as WT representative could take this up with the Perkins re: options for this boundary. JB / FB to pass on the Perkins contact details.
8. **Date of next meeting.** It was agreed that all members be welcomed to the next meeting at the Waggon & Horses 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th January 2016.

Suggestions for commemorating the 20th anniversary launch would be on the agenda.
The next AGM - April 2016