

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 7.30pm on Monday 29th June 2015 at the Waggon & Horses, Doultling Beacon.

Present: Richard Raynsford (Chairman), Peter Banks (Treasurer & Acting Secretary), Mary Newman (MemSec & Doultling P.C.), Fran Britten, Victoria Higgins, Christine Mayle, Jennie O’Kane, and Kaye Watts.

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.45pm. Apologies had been received from; Jacob Britten, Alan Connock, Rick Gledhill, Joe Middleton (WT site manager) & Bo Walsh (Mendip D.C.).
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting on 1st April 2015 were accepted.
3. **Matters arising,** not on the agenda. None.
4. **Officers Reports,** including;
Chairman; RR had nothing to report.
Secretary; PB had arranged a previous meeting at the wood with Mary Newman, Kaye Watts and the new WT site manager Joe Middleton. This was principally to discuss the proposed Forest School activity in the wood, but was an opportunity to show newcomers Joe and Kaye around.
Treasurer; PB updated the meeting on the financial position with several new members joining since the AGM and no expenditure.
Membership Sec.; 20 subscriptions had been received so far this year.
Webmaster; not present
5. **Beacon Hill Wood new management update.** PB reported that at the above meeting in the wood, Joe Middleton had indicated that the WT would in future be including an additional layer of management which would address the issue of enhancing biodiversity in its woods.
6. **Society structure and organisation of future activities.** General discussion on this topic included the need to increase membership and involve more in the organisation of activities. It was agreed that the website should include a prominent display for dates of future events.
7. **Display Board, updating and locating.** It was agreed to meet at Shute Farm Studio on Friday 31st July at 2.30pm to update the Display Boards in time for the Midsomerset Show on 16th August and include information on the Forest School project on the display.
8. **Forest Schools proposed activity in Beacon Hill Wood.** Kaye Watts proposed holding a ‘Family Day’ in the wood to introduce those interested in the Forest School concept. Date agreed being Sunday 23rd August from 10.00am to 2.00pm; and bring your teddy bear for a picnic.
9. **Future Events and Activities, including;**
 - i. Archaeology. Jennie O’Kane agreed to contact Andy Pickering to see if anything could be organised.
 - ii. Walks. Mary Newman confirmed that Les Cloutman would be prepared to lead a fungus walk on Sunday 18th October at 2.30pm.
 - iii. Maintenance of path and parking area. PB reported that Alan Connock was prepared to carry out works toward the end of the summer, details to be agreed with the WT.
 - iv. Other suggestions. It was agreed that a visit to the wood prior to the open days above would be needed to trim the grass and make sure additional parking was available.
10. **Any Other Business.** The meeting discussed the possibility of using social media, e.g. FaceBook, to attract the interest of the younger generation.

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11. **Date of next meeting.** It was agreed that all members be welcomed to the next meeting at Shute Farm Studio on Friday 31st July at 2.30pm for a general discussion on the future of the Society and to agree a date for the next formal meeting.