

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the Meeting on Monday, 12th September 2011 at the Waggon and Horses, Doultling

Present: Julian Back (secretary, webmaster), Peter Banks (treasurer), Caroline Gentinetta (editor), Mary Newman (mem. sec & Doultling PC), Brenda Rogers, Fran Britten, Steve Britten, Philip Malcolm, Bo Walsh

Apologies: Jonathan Burgess, Jennie O'Kane, Eileen Bird, Peter Leach, Alan Conock

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** Peter welcomed us to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting 27th June, 2011:** The previous minutes were accepted
3. **Matters arising:** The society had stalls at Oakhill Fete and the Shepton Show.
4. **Officers reports:**

Webmaster: Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Peter Banks reported on the society funds. Deposit account: £265.18, current account: £589.32. Total: £854.50. But some expenses were still to be paid for.

Membership Secretary: Mary Newman reported that that society member Mr. Hill had died..

Editor: Caroline Gentinetta told us that the newsletter had been sent out and thanked everyone who contributed articles.

Woodland Trust: Julian Back read the following message from Jonathan Burgess:

Since the work finished earlier this year the site has been recovering rapidly. The main ride which was a foot deep in mud has drained and grassed over and now looks very much like it did before but with a wider strip of sky overhead to allow more air and sun, so I expect a bit more vegetation to occur and the ride to be more interesting botanically in future as well as easier to walk.

One of the large central Beech trees was identified as being attacked by Honey Fungus. This means the tree may die within the next few years. I have taken the decision to reduce the crown of the tree to bring it down below the other surrounding trees, this will reduce the 'lever arm' effect of strong winds and hopefully prolong the life of the tree. In the very worst case scenario if it does fail then it will do less damage to the other

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surrounding trees. I believe this work will have taken place shortly before the date of the meeting.

There are no other works programmed for this year.

If the Society would like to plan a task that would be helpful to me then I would like to invite them to remove some of the remaining trees tubes in the planted thicket immediately to the right of the main gate as these are now ready to be removed.

5. Future Events

Fungus Foray, Sunday 2nd October, 2pm – Peter Banks and other volunteers will meet at the wood on 24th September to prepare the parking area. Julian Back will mark out parking spaces on 1st October. Julian will also publicise the event in the local papers and send out a poster for members to put up in suitable places. Julian also to contact Les Cloutman to confirm arrangements.

Litter Picking, 9th October, 2pm. We will also remove the tree tubes as requested by Jonathan Burgess.

Winter Hedge Laying – Steve Britten will make enquiries of a local hedger.

Rubbish Removal from the Fosseway – Steve Britten will contact a digger driver (Mr Davis from Bodden). He may be able to remove the rubbish in about 2 hours on a Saturday morning in November, cost is likely to be £40 - £50.

Visit to the Earth Science Centre at Moons Hill Quarry – Julian to arrange a date in spring 2012. This will have to be a weekday.

Car Parking Improvements – inquire if possible for Alan Conock's gang to make improvements to the car parking area in early Spring 2012 before the Bath and West Show.

Archaeological Fortnight 2012 – possibility of a walk/talk by Dr Jodie Lewis, Mendip archaeology researcher from Worcester University. Julian to investigate further.

6. Any other business

Fran Britten gave us an update on Asham Wood,

Bo Walsh gave us some more information on Honey Fungus.

Money collected at Mr Hills funeral has been donated to Beacon Hill Society. It was decided to use some of this money to fund a trip by Doultling schoolchildren to the wood. The visit will require the hire of portaloos. Steve Britten offered to find the cost of portaloos hire.

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7. Next Meeting

Monday, 6th February 2012, 7.30pm at the Wagon & Horses, Doultling

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