

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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Reminder: Beacon Hill Society subscriptions are due at the beginning of April, please send £5 to the Membership Secretary (see below).

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, 6th February 2013 at Roundhill Cottage, Tadhill

Present: Richard Raynsford (chairman), Julian Back (secretary, webmaster), Mary Newman (mem. sec & Doultling PC), Jonathan Burgess (Woodland Trust), Brenda Rogers, Fran Britten, Philip Malcolm, Jennie O’Kane

Apologies: Peter Banks, Caroline Gentinetta, Paul Newman, Elizabeth Gibbs, Rina May, Steve Britten, Bo Walsh, Eileen Bird

1 Welcome & Apologies

Richard welcomed us to the meeting.

2 Minutes of previous meeting 26th September, 2012

The previous minutes were accepted

3 Matters arising

None

4 Officers reports

Secretary: Julian reported that he, Brenda and Peter Banks had met with hedge layer Alex Bown (winner of a recent hedge laying competition) and surveyed the hedge along the Fosse Way from Yellingmill Lane to Beacon Hill Wood.

Alex measured the hedge on the East side of the Fosse right up to the base of the scarp as a total of 690 metre. Four fields abut this side of the lane, the first measured 228 metre along, the second 95 metre, the third 227 metre and the fourth 140 metre.

To lay the hedge and clear all scrub, as far as the centre of the lane, into the adjacent field Alex would charge £8.50 per metre. The occasional specimen tree would be left in place.

If we arranged a team of volunteers, Alex would charge £17.00 per hour for his working supervision.

During our visit we noticed a smell of gas approx. 480 metre north of Yellingmill Lane, map ref: ST63674565. Subsequently I reported this to Transco who were already aware of the gas leak and were waiting for better weather to do something about it.

We also found that one of the large beech trees at the edge of the wood had fallen. This tree had some large bracket fungi on it so it had probably been weakened by the fungus. Jon suggested that

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these large beeches (which were probably planted when the wood was enclosed) are reaching the end of their lifespan.



Fallen Beech Tree

Treasurer: Peter sent a report sent by email.

We have £1,089.09 in our Community Account.

This year we received a total of £600 from the relatives of Dennis Hill to cover 2 trips to Beacon Hill by the pupils of Doultling School. Expenditure has been £510.00; £290.00 on transport and £220.00 on portaloos.

We discussed what to do with the balance and it was decided to keep it until we can build up enough to fund another school trip (e.g. Ashwick school).

Membership Secretary: Mary reported that we have 21 paid up members and reminded us that subscriptions are due at the beginning of April. Please send your subscription of £5 to Mary Newman, 45, Doultling, SHEPTON MALLETT, Somerset, BA4 4QE.

Woodland Trust: Jon reported on the wood and the implications of ash dieback and other tree diseases. There is no immediate threat to Beacon Hill Wood but ash dieback has spread through the country and is already in Somerset. Since it is spread by the wind it will eventually reach Beacon Hill.

5 Future Events

Visit to Somerset Earth Science Centre – Tuesday, 14th May at 2pm. Please inform the secretary if you would like to come as numbers are limited.

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Moth Night and BBQ at Beacon Hill – in the summer, date to be confirmed

Hedge Laying – in the autumn

6 Any other business

Newsletter – Mary Newman would talk to Rina May about the newsletter and including some contributions from the Doultong schoolchildren.

7 Next Meeting

Wednesday, 17th April 2013, 7.30pm at The Waggon and Horses, Doultong Beacon

Julian Back (Secretary)

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