

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the AGM & Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 9th April 2014 at the Waggon and Horses, Doultling Beacon

Present: Richard Raynsford (chair), Julian Back (secretary), Peter Banks (treasurer), Tim Russell (Woodland Trust), Fran Britten, Philip Malcolm, Bo Walsh, Christine Mayle, Jennie O'Kane, Caroline Gentinetta

Apologies: Gloria Cawood, Brenda Rogers, Paul Newman, Biz Gibbs, Lisa Williams, Dale Race, Stuart Jenkins, Rick Gledhill, Alan Stone, Denise Greenham, Eileen Bird

AGM

Minutes of previous AGM 7th April, 2013

The previous minutes were accepted.

Matters arising

None

Officers Reports

Richard Raynsfords (chair): nothing to report

Peter Banks (treasurer): the accounts were presented. Little change from last year, we have £930 as opposed to £985 last year. We have 21 members.

Julian Back (secretary): our activities over the year consisted of litter picking, Doultling schoolchildren visits, a visit to the Earth Science Centre and Whatley Quarry, and hedge laying

Election of Officers

Chair: Richard Raynsfords

Treasurer: Peter Banks

Secretary: Julian Back

All were proposed and seconded without opposition.

Organisation & Subscriptions

Peter was happy to merge the Membership Secretary and Treasurer roles if Mary agrees.

No change to subscriptions, still £5 per year.

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Ordinary Meeting

Minutes of previous meeting 12th February, 2014

The previous minutes were accepted.

Matters arising

- **Hedge Laying:** The hedge laying is complete for this season. We will review later in the year how the hedge is doing and whether we would like to do more next winter. It was suggested that we should plant some blackthorn or hawthorn whips to thicken up the hedge. We will consider this when nearer the planting season.
- **Litter Pick:** Richard was the only person who turned up! But Peter, Julian and Brenda did meet at the wood at an earlier date and collected some rubbish.
- **Dog Poo Bins:** We confirmed that these are usually paid for by parish councils and emptied by the District Council but we don't know who pays for the emptying. Bo to investigate if any payment is needed. If we go ahead we decided that initially we would put one bin at the main entrance.
- **"Target Store":** Having looked at this we did not think we would be able to repair it. But we would like to know more about it and other possible military activities in the wood in the First and Second World Wars.
- **Car Parking:** Discussion of how to improve parking area. No real conclusion but Tim told us that he has funds to improve the entrance area and the path to the lookout point. He also hopes to put a post and rail fence at the lookout point instead of the current barbed wire. Fran offered to contact the adjoining landowner (Clive Perkins).
- **Membership Leaflet:** We only have B&W photocopies of our old membership form/leaflet. Peter Banks offered to design a new leaflet & form.

Officers reports

Treasurer:

1. We are still building up a surplus from the Doulting School visits and we would like to use this to subsidise visits by other local schools such as Oakhill and Stoke St Michael.

Future Events

A Walk in the Woods: this is an event organised by the Tree Council in May. We will see if our Bluebell Trail is suitable to add to the Tree Council's list of events.

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Summer Picnic and Walk, Saturday, 21st June: We decided that this would be an event for Beacon Hill Society members and their guests.

Moth Trapping: We are still interested in this but the person who would have run it has now moved to Lyme Regis.

Archaeology Walk: Richard mentioned that Pilton History Society had an archaeological walk round the wood led by Steve Tofts. Richard will ask Steve if he could do a similar walk for the Beacon Hill Society.

Bluebell Trail: We decided to meet on Good Friday, 18th April at 10:30 and put up the Bluebell Trail. Julian to contact Mark Adler of the Mendip Times about this and our interest in war time activities in the wood. *Since the meeting I have contacted Mark and he will meet us at the wood on Good Friday.*

AOB

We discussed publicity, many local villages have websites and Facebook pages. Julian to contact then to see if we can get links etc. Also put something in Parish Magazines, Caroline to send a copy of Oakhill Parish Magazine to Julian.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11th June 2014, 7.30pm at the Waggon and Horses.

Julian Back (Secretary)

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