

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, 3rd September 2014 at The Bell Inn Leigh on Mendip

Present: Julian Back (secretary), Peter Banks (treasurer), Brenda Rogers, Fran Britten, Jennie O'Kane, Mary Newman, Richard Raynsford

Apologies: Gloria Cawood, Paul Newman, Biz Gibbs, Stuart Jenkins, Rick Gledhill, Alan Stone, Denise Greenham

Minutes of previous meeting 11th June, 2014

The previous minutes were accepted.

Matters arising

- **Dog Poo Bins:** Emptying of these is done by Mendip, it seems they do not charge.
- **Membership Leaflet:** This has now been printed.
- **Bluebell Trail:** The trail has been taken down.

Officers reports

Chair: none

Secretary: none

Treasurer: approximate funds are £1545.24 This includes £300 received for the next school visit; The next Douling School will be on 23rd October.

Future Events

Moth Trapping: Still interested but no progress. Will now have to wait until next year.

Archaeology Talk and Walk: By Steve Tofts, it was confirmed that the talk on Monday 8th September would be held at the Earth Science Centre, Moonshill Quarry. The walk on Sunday 14th September at Beacon Hill Wood needed preparation to accommodate extra car parking on site.

Mid Somerset Show: Our display boards, booklet and flyers were in the Heritage Tent at the show.

Hedge Laying: We discussed whether to do any further hedge laying this coming winter but no decision was made.

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Investigation of possible WWII features: While on the walk Steve pointed out some possible WWII features and said he would like to investigate them. I have since mentioned this to the Woodland Trust and in principle this is OK as long as we avoid any scheduled areas. We would need to provide a proper plan of what we intend to do. This is something to consider for summer 2015.

AOB

Board at Entrance: could we have a board containing some society info at the entrance to the wood. Need to take this up with the Woodland Trust.

Grant for Urn Display. We approved a grant of £200 to Wells and Mendip Museum to create a display for the urn we discovered in the barrow dig.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 3rd December 2014, 7.30pm at the Waggon and Horses, Doultong Beacon. We should be meeting in an upstairs room if it is available, if not we will be in the snug by the bar.

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Update

The talk (8th Sept) and the walk (14th Sept) by Steve Tofts have both taken place and they were very

successful. Thanks to everyone who helped. Since the meeting Helen Parr (temporary Woodland Trust manager) has informed us that another bench dedication has been accepted for Beacon Hill Wood and she asked for our input on where to site it. In general we are not in favour of more benches being put in the wood but since this dedication has been accepted by the WT it cannot be stopped. The two existing benches are towards the North of the wood so we suggest the new bench is placed on the South side near the Fosse Way entrance. We will be told when the contractor is installing the bench so we can go along and ensure it is positioned correctly.

Helen will also try and ensure that no further bench dedications are made in Beacon Hill Wood. But in order to raise money to manage the wood it is necessary to allow some dedications of other items such as gates.

We have also been told that Tim Russell (the current manager) has resigned from the Woodland Trust.

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We are also in discussion with the Woodland Trust about the planned work at the entrances. We think that some of this work may not be necessary as a lot of the existing gates and fences are still in good condition.