

# THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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## **Minutes of the AGM and Ordinary Meeting held 7.30pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at Shute Farm Studio, Downhead.**

Present: Richard Raynsford (Chairman), Julian Back (Secretary), Peter Banks (Treasurer), Mary Newman (MemSec & Doultling P.C.), Fran Britten, Christine Mayle, Jennie O'Kane, Brenda Rogers and guests Kaye Watts & Jo Smith from Shepton Mallet Forest School.

### **Minutes of the AGM**

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7.45pm. Apologies had been received from; Jacob Britten, Victoria Higgin, Jessica Rothwell, Rick Gledhill, Alan Connock, Alan Stone, Paul Newman and Elizabeth Gibbs.

2. **Minutes of Previous AGM:** The minutes of the previous AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were accepted.

3. **Matters Arising:** None.

#### **4. Officers Reports:**

Chairman: R.R. was pleased with the events and projects organised over the past year, including the Society's support for display of the Bronze Age Urn in Wells Museum.

Secretary: J.B. reported on the successful organisation of several events, including:-

i) The Bluebell Trail,

ii) An Archaeological Talk by Steve Tofts, held at the Earth Science Centre and open to the public, this was followed by Steve leading a Guided Walk round Beacon Hill Wood.

iii) A Hedge laying event alongside the Fosse Way.

Treasurer: P.B. circulated a statement of the present financial position. This included accounts for the Society shown separate from those for the Dennis Hill Bequest. Income from the Archaeological Talk and Booklet sales failed to cover expenditure on the hedge-laying event, Wells Urn display and leaflet printing. The Dennis Hill Bequest remains in credit; there having been just one trip to the wood by Doultling School last year.

Membership: M.N. confirmed membership remained steady with 23 subscribing last year.

#### **5. Election of Officers:**

Chairman: Richard confirmed he was happy to continue as Chairman and was re-elected unopposed.

Secretary: No one present was willing to stand as Secretary, Julian having confirmed he would not be standing for re-election. In the absence of a volunteer, P.B. offered to take on the role of 'minute secretary' for one year only and on the understanding that others would organise any events we decided to hold. If no-one came forward to be Secretary in the coming six months we would then have to consider terminating the Society at an Extraordinary General Meeting. It was agreed Peter could continue as Treasurer at the same time.

Treasurer: Peter confirmed he was happy to continue as Treasurer and was re-elected unopposed.

Membership: Mary confirmed she was happy to continue as Membership Sec. and was re-elected unopposed.

Webmaster: Julian agreed to continue as webmaster for one year.

#### **6. Organisation & Subscriptions:**

It was agreed to hold subscriptions at their present level.

#### **7. Close of AGM**

Date of next AGM to be confirmed.

# THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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## **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting**

### **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 were accepted.

### **2. Matters Arising:**

Dog Poo Bin; J.B. confirmed that one had not yet been ordered, but this would be done shortly.

Memorial Bench; J.B. confirmed that we had an email from Woodland Trust assuring us that no more benches would be erected.

### **3. Officers Reports:**

See AGM Minutes above.

### **4. Future Events and Activities:**

Archaeology Walk: R.R. agreed to ask Steve Tofts to lead a walk during Archaeology Week.

Hedge Laying: Nothing planned at present, it depends on the landowner Jacob Britten; Fran Britten to enquire.

Investigation of possible WWII features: This requires a formal proposal to be prepared and accepted by the authorities and WT. R.R. and J.O'K. to make enquiries of people suitably qualified to do this.

Fungus Foray: M.N. agreed to contact Les Cloutman who may lead one on a Sunday afternoon.

Bluebell Walk: It was agreed to set-up another Trail this spring. J.O'K. agreed to compile a fresh set of section notices for the route.

Forest Camp/Schools: Guest Kaye Watts and her colleague explained the objectives of the project. Based on a Nordic concept that children under 7 years old have yet to develop academic abilities, the intention is to promote social and practical skills in a relaxed environment. By employing the value of play, children learn how to relate and co-operate with each other as they become part of the wider society. The idea is to utilise natural woodland as the background in the physical and mental development of children; and away from the pressure of modern technology and gadgets. It was agreed Beacon Hill Wood provided an ideal location and the Society would support activities. M.N. agreed to liaise with the Hill family over possible access to the Dennis Hill Bequest

Orienteering/Geocaching: No further information was available on Geocaching. R.R. agreed to liaise with J.O'K. on signage for the Bluebell Trail as a form of orienteering.

Maintenance of Easy Going Footpath: It was agreed to approach Alan Connock to assess possible improvements/maintenance of this path when he next visits the wood.

### **5. Any Other Business:**

P.B. pointed out that the parking area at the main gate was becoming badly potholed; this would be a task for the new WT manager. P.B. also proposed a method of marking the ground here to encourage the public in a more efficient layout for parking; this needs WT approval.

### **6. Date of Next Meeting:**

It was agreed to meet next on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30pm at the Waggon & Horses, Doulting Beacon.