

Beckford Nature Reserve

Minutes of the 6th AGM of the Beckford Nature Reserve held in the Village Hall
Beckford on 4th October 2013 at 7.30 pm

Present

Geoff Stringer	Chairman
Jonathan Grice	Treasurer
Clare Henderson	Secretary
Mark McCauley	Trustee
Tina Brown	Trustee

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM.

AGM6/13.1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

AGM6/13.2 Minutes of the 5th AGM of Trustees held on 3rd October 2012

The minutes were read and the Chairman signed them as correct.

AGM6/13.3 Matters Arising

AGM5/12.7 Metal surrounds have been put on bird boxes but they can still be accessed from below by woodpeckers.

AGM6/13.4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that there had been a change in the Trustees and that Diane Colvin had stepped down from the post of Secretary. He thanked her for her excellent work and welcomed Clare Henderson as the new Secretary.

He said that Beckford Nature Reserve continued to thrive. See separate sheet for full report. Adoption of Report. Proposed by Jennifer Berriman and seconded by Pam Grice.

AGM6/13.5 Treasurer's Report

Jonathan Grice presented the accounts, see separate sheet for full details. He stated that the income had reduced from the previous year as donations were down. The 200 club only had 78 members who had renewed their subscriptions at present compared to 99 last year. This is a significant shortfall. The biggest cost to the funds was the insurance. But that was usually covered by the 200 club.

In spite of this the funds of the Nature Reserve were still in a healthy position.

Adoption of accounts. Andy Slade proposed the adoption of the accounts and Ann Clark seconded the proposal.

AGM6/13.6 AOB

1. It was suggested that as the Nature Reserve was used by dog walkers they should be asked to keep their dogs on leads throughout the year and not just in the nesting season and as a result they might be more likely to pick up and remove dog waste. A straw poll was taken to see if this was acceptable and there was a majority in favour.
2. It had been observed that people brought their dogs to the reserve by car and let them exercise there. It seemed that there was a need for another dog waste bin at the Ashton Lane end of the reserve near the disabled hide. Geoff said that this matter had been discussed at the recent committee meetings of the trustees and representation had been made to Beckford Parish Council asking if they could help finance the servicing of another dog waste bin if the Nature Reserve paid for the set up costs. Unfortunately the Parish Council were unable to help. Diane Colvin then explained that the Parish Council were sympathetic to the request but were unable to assign public money to such a scheme on private land.
Jennifer Berriman recommended that the money should be spent by the Nature Reserve to purchase and maintain a dog waste bin and Geoff asked for a straw poll of those present to see if there was agreement with this idea and there was. He said it would be discussed again at the next Trustees' committee meeting.
3. There was a query about any new projects for the coming year in the reserve. John mentioned the thinning out of the ash and cherry trees which could not be done until the leaves fell in the autumn. Trevor has a contractor in mind.
4. Marian Slade mentioned the trees on the island and whether there were any plans to manage the trees there which were falling into the lake. This was likely to be an expensive undertaking.
5. Thanks were made to Jennifer Berriman for her work in promoting and running the 200 club which contributed to the income of the Nature Reserve.
6. Mark asked if there was anything people would like to see done and there was a general comment that maintaining the delicate balance between the Nature Reserve as a conservation area for wildlife and an amenity for humans using it, should be continued as it seemed to be the right balance at present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8 pm.

Signed Date