

# Beckford Nature Reserve

Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Beckford Nature Reserve held in the Village Hall  
Beckford on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015 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.

## **AGM8/15.1 Apologies for absence**

Yo Yates, Nick Clark and Ann Clark

## **AGM8/15.2 Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> AGM of Trustees held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

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

## **AGM8/15.3 Matters Arising**

There were no outstanding matters arising

## **AGM8/15.4 Chairman's Report**

Geoff recalled that John Clifford, founder Trustee and Conservation Warden had sadly passed away in January 2015 and was much missed. To mark his contribution to the reserve, a local craftsman, Nick Rallis has been commissioned to carve a seat from a fallen 500 year old beech tree from Dumbleton. It will be sited on the north side of the lake overlooking the island.

Routine maintenance, thanks to volunteers, includes undergrowth clearance, repairs to footpaths and steps and raising the path to the west of the lake. Stone has been donated for some of these projects by Breedon Aggregates (formerly Huntsmans Quarries), for which the Trustees are most grateful.

Renovation of the SSSI has been authorised by Natural England. This is taking place over two years to minimise disturbance to wildlife.

A sewage leak near the SSSI led to clearing the blockage and replcing the manhole. Information regarding the landfill in the field north of the reserve has been passed to the Prish Council with a suggestion that the springs be tested for pollution.

The original hide has been reroofed. Both hides have been treated with preservative.

Emergency tree work had to be carried out on Ashton Road verge following wind damage.

A dozen orphaned mallard ducklings were released in June and seemed to have settled in successfully. A survey revealed a medium-large colony of Great Crested Newts and a bat survey identified at least three species in the area.

Clare Henderson, Hon. Sec.

The popular village supper will be in Spring 2016 to avoid clashing with other village fund-raising events.

Geoff then thanked all volunteers, supporters and fellow Trustees who contribute to the success of Beckford Nature Reserve.

Adoption of Chairman's report Proposed: John Lodge seconded Andy Slade

### **AGM8/15.5 Treasurer's Report**

Jonathan Grice presented the accounts, see separate sheet for full details on the website.

Over £1200 had been donated in memory of John Clifford which was gratefully received and demonstrated the high esteem in which he was held.

The 200 Club continued to increase in numbers and was a valuable, dependable source of income. The current membership was just over 100. There were plenty of tickets left for sale. The income from the cards and calendars was down on last year but the committee felt that they were an important source of advertisement for the Reserve.

There was increased expenditure on the employer's liability insurance to cover volunteers working on the reserve. The repairs and maintenance were mainly on the old hide. The dog waste bin and the digital camera were both new expenses but represented fixed assets.

Jonathan then explained that as he had been Treasurer for four years he was planning to stand down from the position for personal reasons. He would stay in post until someone else could be found to replace him.

Adoption of the Treasurer's report: Proposed Tina Brown seconded John Hall.

Thanks were expressed to Jonathan for the sterling work he had carried out over his time as Treasurer and great sadness that he was planning to stand down.

### **AGM8/15.6 AOB**

- Marian Slade asked that recognition and appreciation be given to Tina Brown for her taking on the hard work of Conservation Warden and her carrying out all kinds of tasks that were above and beyond what might be expected.
- The 200 Club draw would take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Beckford Inn.
- A raffle for a the prize of £100 voucher off the price of a meal for 4 at the Beckford Inn would be drawn after the meeting.
- After refreshments, Adam Tatlow from Guiting Power would be giving an illustrated talk on Wildlife Photography.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

Clare Henderson, Hon. Sec.