

Beckford Nature Reserve

Minutes of the 9th AGM of the Beckford Nature Reserve held in the Village Hall
Beckford on 7th October 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present

Geoff Stringer	Chairman
Jonathan Grice	Treasurer (Retiring)
Margaret Barker	Treasurer
Clare Henderson	Secretary
Tina Brown	Trustee

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM.

AGM9/16.1 Apologies for absence

Mark McCauley, Nick Clark, John Hall, Sandra Hall, Andy Slade, Laurence Alexander and Jessie Alexander.

AGM9/16.2 Minutes of the 8th AGM of Trustees held on 9th October 2015

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

AGM9/16.3 Matters Arising

Geoff thanked Jonathan Grice for all this commitment to the Nature Reserve while serving as Treasurer over the last four years. He then introduced Margaret Barker who is taking over in the post and welcomed her to the committee. Jonathan was to present the Treasurer's report. Geoff hoped that Jonathan would continue to take an interest in the reserve and Jonathan agreed to offer help and support.

AGM9/16.4 Chairman's Report

Geoff drew everyone's attention to Tina's detailed warden's report (copy in the file) and the three year plan. Much of the work involves establishing and maintaining the new hedge on the north boundary of the reserve but minor vandalism resulting in the removal of tree guards and canes has meant that the saplings have struggled to survive. Also painting the main gate and creating a delivery point for the delivery of wood chippings have been carried out. Geoff thanked Dave and Jayne Allchurch for their hard work in promoting and administering the 200Club which is such a vital part of fund-raising for the reserve. Although some old members have left 12 new ones have joined.

The annual Village Supper was very successful and it is proposed to repeat the event at the Beckford Inn again in 2017. Two proposed dates are 24th or 31st March. The final date will be confirmed in January. The problem with the heating in the marquee appears to have been dealt with.

AGM9/16.5 Treasurer's Report

Jonathan Grice presented the accounts, see separate sheet for full details. The income was significantly down on last year but this was due to the generous donations made in memory of John Clifford in 2015. The 200 Club continues to thrive and Jonathan emphasised the need

Clare Henderson, Hon. Sec.

to promote membership among neighbours as it was the main source of income and needed to cover essential expenditure. £630 was raised at the Village Supper and the use of the Beckford Inn released committee members from setting up and clearing away. Despite the deficit of £644 this could be accounted for by the nominal depreciation value and there was still £13 500 in the accounts. The committee were very conscious of not making inroads into the reserves.

Jonathan thanked Margaret Barker for taking on the task of Treasurer.

Tina Brown asked that Jonathan be thanked formally for his hard work. This was duly noted.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report: Proposed: M.Slade seconded: A. Clark

AGM9/16.6 AOB

- Marian Slade expressed concern that the reserve was running at a loss and asked if there were any ideas for supplementing the income. It was felt that this year had resulted in two days' work of tree surgery which was twice the normal requirement and that had caused an increase of £400 compared to previous years. Cards and calendars are difficult to market as there are few available outlets and Huntsman's Quarries who used to take some no longer are trading as the same company. The cards etc are mainly seen as a PR tool.
- Yo Yates asked if there was much liaison with Kemerton Nature Reserve. The reserve there is much larger and employs a paid warden and a much bigger budget.
- The question of available grants was discussed but it appears that these are only for specific projects and not for general maintenance costs. Since we have £9 000 on deposit then we might be supposed to be able to afford basic expenditures.
- Marian then asked about progress with the memorial bench. Geoff explained that there had been a hiatus while the carver was threatened with eviction and had been unable to proceed but he has started the task and now the problem has been resolved the carving will proceed. The Trustees were hoping to visit the carver and report on progress very soon.
- Madeline Clifford then enquired about the vandalism. Tina explained that having opened up the old hide to encourage its use as a hide, the materials stored there had been taken and the hide had to be closed again. The vandalism was minor but annoying and now seems to have stopped. The camera used to record wildlife was in a camouflaged box and being used to identify any intruders but so far nothing had been seen. She has used twigs from her own garden to replace canes and act as tree guards.
- Marian Slade asked about the finances being audited and it was explained that Mike Sanger- Davis checked the financial report. She also asked that Tina Brown should be congratulated and thanked for all her hard work in keeping the reserve in such good condition.
- Thanks were expressed to Laurence for all the printing that he had done on behalf of the reserve.

Geoff then thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Signed Date

Clare Henderson, Hon. Sec.