

REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING AUGUST 2018

The 58th meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on 1st August 2018. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Geoff Stringer. Geoff said that although the 10th Anniversary Gala in May had represented a financial loss, it had never intended to be a fund-raiser but rather a celebration of the first 10 years of the Nature Reserve existence. It had proved a struggle to sell sufficient tickets in advance but after a leaflet drop and advertising on the website, there was a final set of multiple purchases and the numbers were well up to the target. The band and casino were excellent. It was a pleasure to welcome Cllr Tony Rowley who is the Chairman Elect of Wychavon District Council who represented one of the major donors. The souvenir pens were well-received and allowed the Trustees to express their thanks to all those who have so loyally supported the Reserve over the last 10 years.

Beckford Nature Reserve has been nominated as a Wildlife Hero which is an award made by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust for the work done to promote and maintain the Reserve and the wildlife therein. Geoff is to go and receive the award on behalf of the Trustees.

At present the main management issue on the Reserve is the boundary fence. Advice from Overbury Estates is that the fence needs replacing and the hedging needs protecting to allow it to grow to a sufficient size to survive browsing by deer. Fast growing bushes may be more successful than small saplings. There are too many saplings at present and providing protection is expensive. The manufactured tree guards get removed by humans. Wire netting ones would be less attractive to thieves but will take a lot of effort to make. The cost of materials would be about £1000 for the posts and fencing and £1000 for tree guards assuming we have volunteer help to put these in. The Trustees discussed whether this was the best way to spend the resources and it was decided that the aim of preventing people walking up the slope and taking their dogs onto the field and thus maintaining a hole in the hedge through which deer enter the reserve and then damage the plants, was a worthy aim. In addition the hedge, when mature would provide a habitat for the birds and other wildlife.

Throw ropes and the donation box have been stolen from the Reserve. It was decided to apply to the Beckford Open Village fund for a donation to help replace these items.