

## REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING AUGUST 2019

The 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on August 7th 2019. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Mark McCauley. Mark welcomed Jayne and Dave Allchurch to the meeting and introduced them to the new Trustees. He confirmed the importance of their role in administering the 200 Club which is the single most important reliable source of income for the BNR. Jayne explained the working of the 200 Club and it was agreed to promote the renewal of subscriptions by advertising the date for renewal in the Parish Magazine.

A Twitter account, with links to the website and Instagram, had been set up by Natalie Tyrrell. Lisa Shilton had undertaken a leaflet drop in various local shops and outlets to help publicise the Nature Reserve.

There had been reports of blue-green algae in the water but this has been investigated by the Environment Agency and found to be blanket weed, a non-toxic green alga. There is evidence of plants such as St John's Wort and ragweed which is toxic to animals but it was felt that responsible dog owners would be careful about keeping their animals on leads and there was little danger of harm. These plants are important food sources for insects and providing they have their flower heads removed there should be no real problem.

Tina had been advised by Roger Umpleby that leaving the flower bank to regenerate on its own would result in a good variety of flowering plants and if the plants are mown and the material removed then the best conditions for biodiversity would ensue. Some of the trees need cutting down and this will probably mean up to three days contract work. Our neighbour will allow access to the site for the heavy machinery needed.

Arrangements for the AGM in October were then discussed and it was decided that there would be no necessity to have a speaker this year.