

REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING DECEMBER 2015

The 43rd meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on Wednesday December 9th 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman Geoff Stringer. The problem with the contamination of the water with run off seems to be resolved. The memorial bench for John Clifford is being prepared and the wood has been delivered and work is starting. A completion date is to be sought. The AGM talk by Adam Tatlow was excellent and well-received. It was suggested that a welcome letter and a leaflet be sent to newcomers to the village to make them aware of the Nature Reserve as some people do not realise that it belongs to the whole village. This is to be auctioned. It was noted that the 10 year anniversary of the setting up of the Nature Reserve was approaching and some way to mark this date should be considered.

Tina gave a report on the conservation work that was needed in the reserve. This includes renewing the padlock on the old hide, considering ways to make the new hide more comfortable as it is very windy and cold in winter. The north boundary fence is in need of patching. Replacing with deer-proof fencing would be too expensive but many of the weaker saplings have not survived browsing by the deer. Some species such as field maple seem to be more resistant and it might be advisable to replace the dead specimens with these more hardy varieties. The aim is to provide a habitat for nesting birds and it might help to mulch the area around the hedging plants to cut down on competition from other weed plants. This should encourage the growth of the saplings. Tina has been working on the reduction of brambles to encourage the growth of ground flora.

The new maintenance plan will be updated at the end of the season. A written draft volunteer policy has been prepared and there is to be an annual update of the Risk assessment for the reserve. The Village Supper was proposed to be held at the Beckford Inn at the end of February or the beginning of March. The preferred date being 4th March.

Jonathan Grice is wishing to stand down as Treasurer at the end of the financial year in April 2016. An advert for volunteers for the post will go in the parish magazine in February.