

## REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING DECEMBER 2016

The 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on 7<sup>TH</sup> December 2016. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Geoff Stringer. The carving of the memorial bench for John Clifford has been started and members of the committee had been to view the seat and expressed their delight at the workmanship.

Two work parties had taken place in October and November. The planned work was successfully completed with the exception of raking up the grass on the North Bank. This needs to be done as soon after the grass has been cut to maintain a nutrient-poor soil for the growth of wild flowers. As it takes a long time to complete, this should be the first job of the autumn and all volunteers should be involved so that it can be completed.

The SSSI has been weeded. It is difficult to decide on the best policy as it depends upon which species are desired to be encouraged to grow. Piles of brash are unsightly and Tina suggested that the excess might be burned away from the quarry face as burning might affect the sand martins.

A couple of fundraising suggestions have been proposed. One involves applying to Tesco stores to be considered as a charity to benefit from the charges made for plastic bags. This might only be applicable if a specific project could be proposed and not just for general maintenance. The other involved signing up for a Give as You Live website which allows people to nominate the BNR as a chosen charity which benefits from peoples' online purchases and allows the BNR to receive a percentage of the cost of items purchased. Both these suggestions will be investigated.

The 10 year anniversary of the establishment of the BNR is coming up and the trustees are hoping to mark this in a special way, perhaps by a lecture and a meal or a barn dance.