

Report on the Trustees' meeting July 2015

The 41st meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on Wednesday 8th July 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman, Geoff Stringer. The matters arising from the last meeting were discussed and the work on the memorial bench for John Clifford is in hand and hopefully will be started before the AGM in October. The potential problems with the neighbouring landfill tip have been referred to the Parish Council. Tina is currently monitoring the pH of the water in the lake and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future to ensure that any change in the water quality could be identified as soon as it occurred. The gate onto Ashton Lane can be treated by the Reserve Trustees and volunteers instead of putting the cost out to tender.

Geoff then presented the Chairman's report and said that some ducklings had been released onto the lake after a request from outside the village as they had lost their mother and needed a safe haven. They seem to have made themselves at home. Jonathan gave a report on the finances and said that the increased income from the donations following John Clifford's funeral was helping to offset the increased expenditure resulting from the higher premium for the insurance to increase the cover for volunteers working on the Reserve. The 200 Club continued to be a valuable source of income..

Tina then gave a detailed Conservation Warden's report and said that the cutting back of the dead trees and vegetation bordering the road to Ashton had been successfully completed and the area made safe. This would have to be checked and the vegetation bordering Court Farm Lane would also have to be trimmed regularly to make the borders safe for pedestrians. Some of the trees on the Reserve may have to come down and suckers removed to clear the ground so that the ground flora could flourish and maintain biodiversity. There had been many bee orchids and some pyramidal orchids on the Reserve this summer.

David and Jayne Allchurch have reported that they are happy to change the date of the 200 Club draw to a Wednesday for the new Club year which starts in October. This would mean more Trustees could attend. They hope to leaflet the whole village to encourage more people to support the 200Club.

The date for the AGM is fixed for Friday 9th October and Adam Tatlow is to give an illustrated talk.

The next meeting of the Trustees is scheduled for 16th September 2015.