

REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING JUNE 2019

The 63rd meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on June 5th 2019. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Geoff Stringer. Geoff welcomed Natalie and Peter Tyrrell and Lisa Shilton to the meeting and thanked them for agreeing to become Trustees. Peter was to take over the role of Treasurer and Lisa would be responsible for publicity and the use of social media to improve local awareness of the Reserve. Natalie felt she could help with this as well. Mark McCauley would be prepared to take on the role of Chairman if his work commitments allowed.

The Trustees had walked round the Reserve the previous Sunday and as a result Tina made a number of suggestions for inclusion in the draft plan. In particular the spoil heap at the base of the quarry face should be left in place to protect the geological exposure. The Northern boundary hedge could be reinforced by adding shrubs and plants such as teasel, buddleia, elder and wild roses. Excessive bramble growth should continue to be removed while still preventing access to the lake edge. A contractor would be brought in to cut the grass from the steep slopes and also to cut down the dead trees to prevent them becoming a hazard. Two seats need repairing and this is in hand. John Clifford's seat has some deep splits in it but the carver has agreed to repair it and only charge for materials. The cutting back of some of the trees from the lake edge on the South bank will improve the view of the lake and encourage ground flora. By leaving the roots in place this will help stabilise the bank. It was proposed that the life belt stations should be removed and the new throw ropes made available in their place as these are more practical as rescue items than the very heavy life belt rings. There was some discussion about the availability of parking near the Reserve for disabled visitors and this will be reviewed at future meetings. The retiring Trustees were thanked for their service to the Reserve.