

Report on the Trustees' meeting September 2015

The 42nd meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on Wednesday September 16th 2015. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman, Geoff Stringer. The potential problems with the landfill tip have been referred to the Parish Council and they are making enquiries. The carving of the new bench in memory of John Clifford is in hand. A chainsaw has been ordered from a local firm and the work should start soon. The area near the old bench that is going to be removed, has been cleared and this has improved the view along the lake. It was suggested that a working party could clear more. Owing to the time of year little formal work had been done. Working parties will start after the end of September. The footpath between the steps up to the corner and the deep water sign towards the west bank has been repaired. People walking round the angelica have caused the edge to slip down. There had been an enquiry about the future of wood cut on the reserve. It seemed appropriate to offer the wood to be available for people to collect and take away in return for a donation towards the reserve.

The gate onto Ashton Lane needs treating and repainting which seems a task suitable for a working party. Some more trees need to be taken down and arrangements are in place for this to be done now the nesting season is over. A maintenance plan is being prepared for the AGM.

Various plans were discussed with the aim of increasing the variety of habitats especially with hedgehogs in mind. Also perhaps providing floating "Islands" for wildfowl to nest on. A plant survey might also prove useful.

The next public meeting is the AGM on 9th October 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.