

Beckford Nature Reserve

Minutes of the 7th AGM of the Beckford Nature Reserve held in the Village Hall
Beckford on 17th October 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present

Geoff Stringer	Chairman
Jonathan Grice	Treasurer
Clare Henderson	Secretary
Mark McCauley	Trustee
Tina Brown	Trustee

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM.

AGM7/14.1 Apologies for absence

John Clifford.

AGM7/14.2 Minutes of the 6th AGM of Trustees held on 4th October 2013

The minutes were read and the Chairman signed them as correct.

AGM7/14.3 Matters Arising

There were no outstanding matters arising

AGM7/14.4 Chairman's Report

The chairman reported that John Clifford had retired as Conservation Warden and thanked him for his work as founder trustee and Conservation Warden since the inception of Beckford Nature Reserve. Trevor McGill has also resigned as Warden due to work commitments and the Chairman expressed the thanks of the trustees to Trevor for all his work since 2011. Tina Brown has taken on the role of Conservation Warden.

David Glenn has sold Huntsman's Quarries and was thanked for his generosity and support of the Nature Reserve. Jennifer Berriman has handed over the administration of the 200 Club to David and Jayne Allchurch. Geoff thanked Jennifer for all her dedication and hard work over the past 6 years. A successful Village Supper, along with the sale of cards and calendars has helped raise funds for the running of the Nature Reserve. Thanks to the efforts of the volunteers, fundraisers and advisors, Beckford Nature Reserve continues to thrive and is a valuable amenity for the village and a haven for wildlife.

Adoption of Chairman's report Proposed: Mark McCauley, seconded John Hall

AGM7/14.5 Treasurer's Report

Jonathan Grice presented the accounts, see separate sheet for full details. 2013-14 had been fairly quiet year. Income was down as fewer donations but fortunately there had been no major expenditure and as a result there was a slight increase in surplus funds. There was a new notice board in the new hide provided by the Lodge family. There has been recent

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expenditure on a new dog waste bin at the entrance to the reserve on Ashton Lane, which will incur an annual maintenance cost, and the purchase of a new motion sensitive camera for the reserve. The hides have needed general maintenance with the treatment with preservative on the new hide and the repair to the roof of the old hide. there should be more funds to support the maintenance work on the reserve. Geoff explained that there had been a recent increase in the employer's liability insurance to cover volunteers working on the reserve. This will eventually mean an extra £392 per annum. This brings the annual insurance bill to more than £1000 but with the 200 Club having an increased membership and with the successful Village Supper this should help cover costs.

Adoption of Treasurer's report Proposed: Ann Clark seconded Andy Slade

AGM7/14.6 AOB

1. Andy Slade had an enquiry from someone on the website asking if Beckford Nature Reserve Lake was available for people to let their dogs swim there. The enquirer had seen it on the internet as an "ideal place for dogs to swim". He had replied that it was not permitted. He found it comes from "Horse and Hound" magazine posted in 2011. It was suggested that the magazine was contacted and asked to remove the post. The signs forbidding swimming and asking people to keep their dogs on a lead implied that dogs could not swim in the lake.
2. It has been noted that people park in the layby and let their dogs into the reserve to run free. There is little that can be done apart from asking people to obey the signs.
3. Madeline Clifford said that John was very pleased that Tina Brown has taken over the role of Conservation Warden and was delighted at the excellent work she was doing. Tina was very pleased that she was able to call on him for help and advice.
4. There are now summaries of the reports on the trustees' meetings on the website to help improve communication and keeping people up to date.
5. There is a working party on 18th October. There was a query about the frequency of these and Tina explained that they were mainly in the winter to avoid disturbing the birds during the breeding season. People were informed of the working parties by email and they were also posted on the website. In future there would also be paper notices for those without internet access. The task was to improve the alternative path and take out the bramble patches by the SSSI as we have a duty of care to prevent damage to the rock face. The sand martins would not use the area where the brambles encroached. Natural England have given permission for certain activities to be carried out.
6. There is a slideshow running on the laptop of pictures taken by the remote camera.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8 pm.

Signed Date

Clare Henderson, Hon. Sec.