

REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING DECEMBER 2017

The 54th meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on 6th December 2017. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Geoff Stringer. Margaret was concerned about the cost of the Public Liability Insurance and was to investigate finding a more reasonable policy which cost less. Since the costs of running the reserve are mainly caused by the high insurance premiums, this would be a better use of the finances of the reserve. It is important to maintain a sensible level of cover but as much of the cover seems to be for buildings, which do not feature in the reserve; it seems possible that a more tailored cover might be less expensive. It was pointed out that seeking a more reasonable premium had been carried out in the past but with no success. Since 2018 is the 10th anniversary year of the establishment of the Reserve, a special event might be appropriate. It would be nice to seek out the organisations that had provided the grants and invite them to see the reserve and show them how their money had been spent. Souvenirs of the 10th anniversary with the anniversary details printed on them, could be ordered and given out as a thank you to all those who supported the Reserve over the last 10 years.

Tina reported on the working parties that had worked on the reserve. The SSSI has been weeded and the mound in front cleared in order that the site was more attractive to the sand martins, which have not nested in recent years. In addition the area has been made suitable for the specialist invertebrates, which inhabit the area. The area in front of the seat on the West bank has been cleared to provide a view and a perch stool created from tree stumps.

The Nature Reserve had a display as part of the Beckford Development Plan exhibition and the BNR stall at the Winter Fayre at the Beckford Inn marquee was very successful and raised over £100 from the sale of cards and calendars and photographs donated by Andy Slade. Thanks to the Allchurches for their help in running this stall. There is a BNR Facebook page which will help to inform people of the news about the reserve.