

REPORT ON THE TRUSTEES' MEETING SEPTEMBER 2018

The 59th meeting of the Trustees of Beckford Nature Reserve took place on 19th September 2018. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by Geoff Stringer. An application has been made to the BOV Fund on behalf of the Nature Reserve for a contribution to the cost of replacing the throw ropes and the donation box. The result of this is pending. It was suggested that a means of texting donations rather than having a cash donation box might be more cost effective. Geoff has checked this and has found a company that takes a small percentage for running the system. It was felt that a box to take cash donations was still appropriate and maybe the two systems could run concurrently. The DBS application has been made and Tina has received her certificate which has been checked and approved by the Trustees.

The Conservation Warden reported that the 3 year plan has been updated and mainly concerns preventing flooding near Rabbit Lane entrance and keeping the different plant growth under control. In addition there is a long term plan to repair the fencing and erect netting to protect hedge plants. The trees that need removal must be done by a professional and Andy Tustin will be contacted. As per decisions at the last meeting and from the site visit the post and wire fence is in the process of being repaired and this will soon be completed. It has been reported that a family of 4 were seen climbing on the quarry face which is the SSSI. Apart from being dangerous, this is illegal. As a result a large amount of loose material has fallen down and needs to be removed. Tina suggested that another notice be placed to stress this.

The drop in the number of volunteers was discussed. There are now as few as 6 volunteers helping on a regular basis and if the numbers do not increase we will have to have another day of paid professional help. This will make inroads into our finances and we will soon run out of money. It was suggested that this point should be raised at the AGM to make the people of Beckford aware of this and explain the need to still raise funds.

The village hall has been booked for the AGM on Friday 19th October.