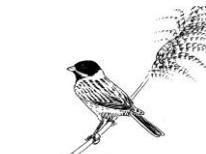




Milford Environment Group
(Formed 1989)



Wildlife Recording Group
(Formed 2001)

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MCV COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AT THE GUIDE HUT

Friday 9th June 2017

1. **Apologies** From David Horne. Everyone else was present.
2. **Minutes of the last meetings** (07.04.17). Following minor amendments, P1, 4c) change 'supper' to 'lunch' + P1 Item 5 Change 'for' to 'from' in 4th line bullet-point 1). The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.
3. **Outstanding Matters**
 - a) Item 5) Arrangements had been made by David (C) for letters of thanks to be sent to members donating over £30 with their membership fees.
 - b) Item 6b) Insurance to cover Brushcutter – Response from insurance company awaited.
 - c) Item 7a) It was reported that a plan of Bird Observatory grounds to which MCV had access for management had been agreed between Simeon Morgan and Keith. A copy had been sent to David Rule.
 - d) Item 7b) Keith had met Alison (Natural England) and approval had been given by her to go ahead with redevelopment of pump house Bird Observatory. Work had started in earnest.
 - e) Item 7d) It was noted that Keith had been given the OK to have our trip details placed in the office in the village but that no agreement had been reached about placing a poster on the Hurst Castle Ferries notice board at the pontoon.
 - f) Item 7k) It was noted that the water pipe to the Orchard had been installed and paid for by the council.
 - g) Item 7 l) It was reported that the Reed bed restoration was progressing well and special thanks were given to Mervyn and Ken for their help.
4. **Chairman's Announcements**

Urgent Matter: Tony reported that an urgent matter had arisen as follows: The Parish Office had received a letter from Diane Batt complaining about chainsaw work close to a footpath in the Pleasure Grounds. This related to an incident regarding her dog. A draft response (if needed) has been drawn up by the Chairman and Vice Chairman should it be needed. The complaint is being dealt with via additional signage being discussed under item 6f below.

 - a) **May Fayre 1st May** – This had been successful and 8 members had been signed on and some £160 of revenue generated.
 - b) **Plant Fair 20th May:** A further 3 members had been signed on and monies taken for walks maps and walking sticks kindly made by Mervyn.
 - c) **12th June – Rainbow Bug Hunt:** Tony said that he and Keith were conducting a 'bug hunt' with the Rainbows. Some equipment had been loaned by the National Park.
 - d) **1st September – First Friday Lunch.** More help will be required and it was possible that Di Cobbett would hold a briefing meeting nearer the event.
 - e) **Committee & larger BAP Meeting/s:** It was agreed that MCV would look into moving the management committee meetings back to the community centre to be held at 7pm, possibly on Mondays. Anne to check ongoing availability at various venues and report back to the committee. Keith said that it was

possible that the BAP meeting numbers would be expanded to include a number of additional interested parties. It is possible that in future, the Guide Hut could accommodate these BAP afternoon meetings.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a) **This period accounts:** These had been circulated to all members by the treasurer. The Treasurer dealt with questions and will check the item of expenditure raised by Mary regarding an NFACV payment of £6. The Treasurer said that whilst the total funds seem in good order this included grants and funds put aside for various conservation projects, including the bird observatory.
- b) **Adoption of this period presented accounts:** Keith proposed and Mervyn seconded that the reports were a true record of income and expenditure and were approved unanimously.

6. Other Financial Matters

- a) To purchase 200 x A3 coloured **Studland Wildlife Maps:** Tony and Keith had prepared the map and text specifically for the National Meadows Day (NMD), though they were undated so that they could continue to be sold at other events, shops etc. Keith said that the old nature reserve walks map was now in profit by £698 and that we still had good stocks to continue selling them. Subject to 3/4 minor amendments being made, it was agreed that we will purchase 1,000 unfolded maps (to be folded by volunteers) at £198. It was agreed that a small package of papers (including the map) would be given to visitors at the NMD event on the 1st July, hoping that visitors will make generous donations. The remaining maps will be made available to the usual outlets to sell at £1 each of which 50p would come back to the MCV.
- b) **BBQ - working on £3.50 to £4.00 per head.** Cost being underwritten by Tony and Keith less any donations for the event received. Up to 54 invitees = £216. It was noted that another 6 people had been included in the invitation list. Keith suggested that the invite should be extended to all parish councillors as they had been supportive of our work and had contributed financially in numerous ways e.g. allowing MCV exclusive rights to the wood extracted from the PGs and paying for the recent water supply to the Orchard. It was agreed unanimously that the invitation be extended to councillors.
- c) **WI Funds - £875** - BAP SG recommendations: Tony suggested that: i) £145 should be given for an orchard tree to mark WIs 100-year celebration ii) that the Pond-dipping platform & remedial works to the ponds boardwalk & pruning over footpath be paid for from these WI funds and that any residue iii) be spent on the purchase of new binoculars for use at various MCV events e.g. bird hide visits and guided walks for youngsters. All agreed unanimously with these proposals.

Additional Financial Proposals: Keith proposed that funds be made available for the following:

- d) **MCV Logo stickers** for tools, paper headings etc. - £36 + Carriage & VAT
- e) A '**Welcome to Sturt Pond Nature Reserve Bird Hide**' Banner – approx. £50 and
- f) **Woodland Safety Signs** e.g. Caution! – Tree Works in Progress – Please put Dogs on Lead in Work Areas. The first two items were approved and it was agreed that expenditure of up to £200 be allowed for the third item subject to obtaining quotations for design and production which might include the re-use of 'abandoned' sign frames. Keith to obtain quotations.

7. Conservation Officer Reports

- a) **National Meadows Day Event** – This item was reported by Keith in detail and included updates on A4 wildlife hand-out sheets, poster distribution, publicity, invitations, risk assessment, confirmation of walks and talks guides, first aider attendance, water supply, the purchase of 2 pump flasks, signage distribution, gazebo erection and dismantling, display boards, wildlife reference books, trailer collections and returns, tables, postal invitations, clean-up party etc. Anne agreed to hand deliver invitations to the event to properties that back on to the Common, Meadow and Orchard (Pless Road + The Bucklers).
- b) **Bird Observatory Project:** Keith reported that the project is making progress with the new roof and flooring completed. We were now awaiting Alan Jupe Builders to give us the date for the brick removal and lintel work. Once these have been undertaken we can then place the formal order with the bird hide manufacturer for the window frame, hinged windows and replacement door. There is a lead time of 5-6 weeks for these items to be made and delivered. This is likely to be done sometime in August/September. It was noted that a 'Private Property' sign and MCV contact details have been placed on the gate. NFNPA and the Cameron Bespolka Trust have been asked for funds for the project to be released now that some works have been completed.

- c) **'Creeks, Inlets & Island' Dory boat trips:** It was reported that Trip (9) had to be aborted after 35 minutes due to heavy rain. Because the skipper had tried to undertake the trip and that fuel had been used, there would be no refund. Keith to contact Trip (9) visitors to say that unfortunately, there will be no refund or alternative trip. It was reported that Trip (10) was fully booked and that a further July and August trip is being planned.
- d) **Guides 'Wetland Wildlife Garden:** Mervyn & team have cut all the wood and larger pieces have been extracted and the smaller pieces cut and stacked for the Guides. The Guides have burned the remaining brushwood. Tony & Keith met Jane and for the moment there are no funds available to purchase the wildlife hide.
- e) **Log Sales, Logging & Splitting Sessions and Storage** – Keith, Tony and David (C) have volunteered to help prepare and waterproof the new storage area at Chris and Jane Willard's.
- f) **Saltgrass Lagoon Project:** Awaiting date of next small group meeting.
- g) **Swift Box Report** – Alan Jupe Builders has agreed in principle to fit Swift Boxes where he is able to do so. Keith to follow-up with Alan and Pennyfarthing
- h) **Scout Enclosure - Woodland copse:** Keith and Mary have agreed to conduct a general survey of this enclosure close to the Efford South Balancing Pond.
- i) **Common, Meadow & Woodland Interest Group:** It was noted that the last WIG meeting recently took place and that progress was being made, though there was some concern expressed by Keith to Cllr Bishop (Chair of the WIG) that an agreement was in place to fell 10 trees each year in the 10-year management plan and that this would be the second year without felling to create open areas.
- j) **Moth Group** proposals – Mary reminded the meeting that it had been agreed that her monthly reports would be dealt with at the BAP meetings. Mervyn asked that the management committee receive Mary's report as most committee members did not attend the BAP meetings. Mary gave her update.

Next Task Sessions

- k) **6th August – Churchyard – Link to Old Meadow:** Keith proposed that MCV offer some help to the church warden with whom he had recently met to discuss a trial task in the churchyard. This proposed project would help meet BAP aspiration plan H19. It was unanimously agreed to lend support to this subject to the church council approving the proposed work. However, this would not take place on the 6th August, the date of which will now be held open for an alternative task to be discussed by Tony and Keith.
 - l) **3rd September - Bird Observatory Footpath preparation:** Keith reported that a formal task session would be needed to undertake footpath clearance work at the bird observatory for the 3rd September session.
 - m) **Keyhaven Lodge Meadow:** It was reported that Angela Peters was making progress towards enhancing the existing meadow at Keyhaven Lodge and that MCV might be able to help with non-contracted work like sowing/distributing the locally collected seed. Date to be confirmed.
 - n) **Other Tasks:** Tony suggested that further work needs to be undertaken on the MEG Bridge and Boardwalk and at Barnes Bridge. These will be factored into the task days, or mid-week sessions.
8. **Publicity Officer's Reports & Social Events** (Peter Hutchings & Keith)
- a) **Summer Newsletter:** Items still required. Keith hopes to produce the newsletter in time for the National Meadows Day. The copies will need to be distributed by hand to every member.
 - b) **Website Update:** Keith will work on this with Angela Bunting upon her return from holiday.
9. **Calendar of Meetings & Events 2017** Version 11 – 04.06.17 was circulated with the agenda. All previous copies should be destroyed and only the latest copy used.
10. **Any other business** – There was no other business.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – 11th AUGUST – GUIDE HUT 3 – 5 PM (TBC)