



Milford Conservation Volunteers

Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting held on 31st March 2017 at the Community Centre, Sea Road.

Tony Locke as Chair welcomed everyone including Professor Russell Wynn, our visiting speaker. Committee members present were Anne Jenks, David Cobbett, Keith Metcalf, Giles Darvill, Mervyn Couzens, David Horne, Rita Conroy, Mary Macmillan. Total attendance was 54.

1. Apologies for absence were received from: Richard and Anne Bickle, Mike Collison, Alastair and Sophie Beeton, Steve and Lorraine Mabbett.

2. Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting 18th March 2016 were accepted as a true record of the meeting: proposed by Keith Metcalf, seconded by Anne Jenks, and voting was unanimous.

3. Matters Arising There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report by Tony Locke.

Tony reported on the sad death of Elizabeth Young who had been a leading botanist over many years, through local and national scientific and conservation bodies. Her speciality had been the flora of the parish on which she kept careful records.

Management of MCV has been undertaken throughout 2016 through the main committee and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Steering Group. Other contributors include Mary Wheatley for first aid and Peter Hutchins for publicity. Tony thanked the members of these groups and a number of colleague bodies including the Women's Institute Branch and the residents of Camden Hurst who are making generous donations towards MCV conservation projects. Thanks also to Sue Hill of Village Voice for providing space for MCV publicity (including 'log sales') and to our wildlife surveyors, water quality assessors and logging team.

Other MCV activities are listed under Conservation Officer's report (9 below).

5. Treasurer's Report by David Cobbett.

David had taken over from Frances Hand as Treasurer. He identified a healthy capital balance at the end of 2016 of £8,487. Logging activities had contributed a profit of £1,282, with a further addition of £615 over 9 months from bird hide donations. A new expenditure has been the hire of a professional auditor, Tim Light.

6. Acceptance of the accounts. The accounts, which had been sent to members, were proposed by Jenny Spenser and seconded by Joyce Carter and agreed unanimously. Tony thanked David for his work as Treasurer including the accurate audited statement of accounts for 2016.

7. The appointment for 2017 of Examiner of Accounts. Tim Light was proposed by Keith Metcalf to continue as Examiner, seconded by John Pruden and agreed unanimously.

8. Proposed changes to the Constitution.

Two changes were proposed. 1) Under the heading; Constitution add 'MVC is a Not for Profit organization'. Under 10(a) replace 'the quorum required for a meeting will be six members' with 'the quorum required for a meeting will be four or at least fifty per cent of the number of committee members whichever is the larger'. It

was explained concerning the latter that the original relatively large size of the committee resulting from the need to facilitate an amalgamation of MEG and the WRG. Proposed by Keith Metcalf and Seconded by Mary Macmillan. The changes were agreed unanimously.

9. Conservation Officer's Report and 10. Biodiversity Action Plan

These two items were taken together. Keith Metcalf reported on many activities both routine and innovatory:

- Conservation. As previous years, working parties in the PC's woodland and common areas. On Studland Common, four blocks of 'scrub' have been removed so far, freeing up the passage of light, encouraging low-growing grassland plants and opening up extra areas to the public. Helping with visitors' access, especially those in wheelchairs and using buggies by improving paths and access gateways. Orchard tree planting and protection.
- Community education. Helping the Guides to create a hide area and wildlife garden beside their hut. Facilitating a 6-month student Duke of Edinburgh programme for one person. Daily opening of the Sturt Pond bird hide with improved wall charts, etc, to reinforce ID sessions. Other wildlife ID sessions at the Community Centre. Birding boat trips on Keyhaven creeks and saltmarshes for bird ID, thanks to Jason and Andy our skippers. On-going funding raising, planning work etc for the new bird observatory at Keyhaven near the sluice gate overlooking The Pans and lower Avon Water.
- 2016 Surveys on butterflies, house martins, sand martins, moths and dormice.
- Processing trees felled by the Parish Council, by removing, splitting/cutting up, marketing logs, making some small wood items. Strong thanks to Mervyn, Rita, Steve and Lorraine.

2017 plans. Many of the above will continue. Possible innovations include encouraging house builders to incorporate swift nesting 'boxes' and encouraging the restoration of the Saltgrass Saline Lagoon on land south of Saltgrass Lane, with possible safe islands for terns and waterfowl.

Keith finished his report by thanking Chairman Tony Locke and all committee members and gave a special thanks to retiring County Cllr Alan Rice who had given generously over many years to MEG, the WRG, MCV and many Milford organisations over the past 50 years of his service to the community. Alan was wished a long, healthy and happy retirement.

11. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following nominations were proposed:

Chairman- Tony Locke, Vice Chairman – Keith Metcalf, Treasurer – David Cobbett, Secretary – Rita Conroy, Membership Secretary – David Cobbett, Conservation Officer – Keith Metcalf, Committee members – Anne Jenks, Hugh Corry, Mervyn Couzens, Mary Macmillan and David Horne.

These were proposed and seconded by Chris Beeton and Mary Wheatley. There were no further proposals and nominated members were voted in en-bloc unanimously.

12. The date of the next AGM has not yet been fixed, it will be in March 2018.

13. Any Other Business. MCV will be organizing one of the Milford Charity Lunches, on 1st September 2017. In 2016 100 people attended. A team of helpers will be required, volunteers should contact project leader Di Cobbett or one of the committee members.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 7.42 p.m.

Signed – Chairman