



Milford Environment Group
(Formed 1989)



Website: www.milfordcv.org



Wildlife Recording Group
(Formed 2001)

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MCV COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held on **Friday 11th January 2019** at 7.00pm in the **Community Centre**

Present : Tony Locke, Anne Jenks, , David Horne, David Cobbett, David Burch and Penny Ramus.

1. **Apologies :** Received from Keith Metcalf, Lorraine Mabbett and Mary MacMillan.
2. **Approval of minutes of last meetings held** 'Budget' committee meeting minutes of 6th November 2018. Proposed by David (C) and seconded by Tony. Unanimously approved. Committee meeting minutes of 23rd November 2018. Proposed by David (C) and seconded by David (H). Unanimously approved.
3. **Outstanding Matters**
 - a) **Butterfly Transect and Scrub Block Flora :** - The meeting with the Parish Council to report on the Scrub Block Flora and the Butterfly Transect Report is still to be held.
 - b) **Fruit and Veg Shop – Paper Bags:** Anne Jenks looked at this report and has decided to write to The Friends of the Earth for advice.
 - c) **AGM:-** Final Paperwork and arrangements are in hand – Anne Jenks, and the Format - Keith Metcalf. A raffle is to be arranged. Anne Jenks to buy prizes and Mike Collison asked to run the raffle on the evening.
4. **Chairman's Announcement and Reports.**
 - a) **Mervyn Couzens Volunteer of the Year Award:** Committee members were asked to give their non-committee nominations for this award to Keith by December 31st. The nomination proposed met with universal approval from all the committee members present.
 - b) **Tasks – All Saints Church – Vegetation Clearance:** A new date has been set for Wednesday 13th February 2019. 10.00am by the Lych gate to make a start to cut back overgrown bushes and trees.
 - c) **Tasks Continued: - Scrub Block (6) Clearance:** Scrub block 5 is still to be completed. Scrub Block (6) arrangements were approved by the PC and work has now commenced. Hampshire Conservation Volunteers have agreed to help on Saturday/Sunday 16/17th March 2019.
 - d) **Volunteers Fair: - Lyndhurst Community Centre–** Sunday 27th January 2019. David Horne has agreed to attend.
 - e) **NFNPA – Wild Play Day:-** Thursday 16th April 2019 at Sturt Pond and Hurst Spit. A day organised for younger children. Binoculars will be available.
 - f) **Purchase of 6x pairs of New Binoculars:** -Thanks go to Mary MacMillan for the purchase of the binoculars which are lightweight and suitable for use by Children.
5. **Treasurers Report:**
 - a) Approval was given for the year end accounts which had been distributed to committee members prior to the meeting. Anne Jenks commented that cross referencing was quite difficult and David Cobbett was

very concerned that the accounts should show the utmost transparency. However it was decided after some discussion that the accounts pages 1 and 4 would be distributed in their current form at the AGM but would possibly be made clearer for the benefit of the committee. It was suggested that Keith, Tony and David should have a meeting about this.

The income and expenditure report showed a healthy balance and a pleasing sum of £900 has come in already from subscriptions, including 19 new members. The key fobs have made £570. See account papers for further details.

6 Conservation Officer's Report.

- a) **Coastal Protection:-** Nothing further to report.
- b) **Observatory Update:** A report drafted by Julie Hallows on the usage of the observatory has proved interesting and useful. She is able to produce statistics about the use of key fobs using the computer in the bird observatory. Key fobs which are not renewed will automatically cease to work. It is proposed that the decking area leading up to the Hide is extended and £1000 has been budgeted for this project.
- c) **Studland Common Flailing.** This has been cancelled by the PC, mainly due to lack of grass growth during the very dry summer.
- d) **Birding for beginners Sessions:** -To take place at the Bird Observatory on the 1st Saturday and at the Bird Hide on the 3rd Saturday every month. The new banner will be used to advertise the event is taking place.
- e) **Old Milford Meadow:** Secret Garden, Wild flower Meadow, Community Orchard, Growing Vegetables for children?? Some replies have been received from members of the public following an article in the village voice asking for ideas for this site. No further progress from MCV as yet.
- f) **Creeks and Saltmarsh Trips – Update:** - Dates for trips is to be advised.
- g) **Saltgrass Marsh – Update:** - As before – progress is slow. The PC is still awaiting the District Council's opinion. Keith has information regarding the sensors that measure the salinity of the salt marsh. Keith has suggested that for the period March to July MCV should consider paying the £20 per month data collection fee from the £1,000 budgeted sum to pump-prime the re-salination project. The cost is currently being paid for by Vision Link. The committee requested that more information be provided.
- h) **Bird Hide and Management Agreements:** Repairs to the Bird Hide Steps have been designed by Martin Gretton and completed by Martin and Tony. £1800 is budgeted for further roof repair works to be undertaken in the next year or two.
- i) **New Orchard (BAP H4) and Mini-Flower Meadow (BAP H13):** Nothing further to report
- j) **Logging – Update Report:** No further report. No progress has been made regarding storage.
- k) **Solent Grange:** The dumped rubbish in the lower-field has now been removed, leaving just ex-Tony Milne's fenced storage area. This storage area has now acquired rights to remain as it has been in place for over ten-years. . It was noted that the Geese have reduced the number of times the lower-field is used, preferring the Edgar's field between the permissive path (from New Lane to Sturt Pond) and the crabbing bridge.

l) **Community Orchard:** - No work had taken place in this area for some time and it was looking rather neglected. However some rubbish has now been removed into the field for a bonfire when conditions are right and the orchard is improving in appearance.

m) **Moth Group Report:** No report.

7. **Publicity Officer's Report :-**

a) **Wildlife Matters and Village Voice:** - articles are done for February and March.

b) **Calendar of meetings and events 2019:** - Keith is working on this.

9. **AOB:**

a) **The Sandra Ebbetts Memorial Tree:** - Anne reported that it is in need of some maintenance. Tony has already done some clearance around the base of the tree, Sandra was the Founder Chairman of Milford Environmental Group 1991- 2003 and the tree was planted in her honour in 2005 in Sharvells Copse.

b) **David Burch reported an issue with oak trees in Carrington Lane** but it appears that the problem has been dealt with.

c) **A Year in the Forest:** - A TV show which is worth watching. The Forestry Commission celebrates 100 years with an exhibition in Lyndhurst to last 3 months and also tree planting.

d) **Date of next meeting – Annual General Meeting at 7pm at the Community Centre, Sea Road on 15th March 2019**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47 pm