



Milford Environment Group  
(Formed 1989)



Website: [www.milfordcv.org](http://www.milfordcv.org)



Wildlife Recording Group  
(Formed 2001)

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15TH MARCH 2019

### MINUTES

The meeting opened with a **charming** recording of a Bird Song Opera.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the eighth MCV AGM

1. **Apologies for absence:-** Steve and Lorraine Mabbett, Richard and Julia Coomber, Chris and Wendy Thomas, Richard Griffiths, Pat Smith, Chris and Sarah Mabey, Mr and Mrs Haisman and John Pruden.

2. **Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting 16th March 2018:-**

These had been displayed on the MCV website.

Proposer:- David Horne

Seconded:- Richard Bickle

3. **Matters Arising:-** There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Report:-** The Chairman gave a brief report since the activities for the year 2018-2019 would be covered by the Conservation Officer's report.

i) The Chairman thanked Mary MacMillan and David Cobbett for their careful research into the requirements of, and an appropriate solution to compliance of the General Data Protection Regulations. After approval by the Committee this now stands as the MCVs Privacy Notice dated May 1st 2018 and can be found on the MCV website. It will be amended as necessary.

ii) Thanks were also expressed to the Milford on Sea Gardeners' Club for their generous donation of **£775.00** to the MCV general funds, following their very successful Plant Fayre.

iii) Finally, thanks were given to all those who had undertaken the Butterfly Transect walks, the Mothing events, and Bird Surveys which all play an important role in contributing to not only local knowledge but also to National Scientific Data.

5. **Treasurer's Report:-** Copies of the Annual Accounts had been distributed to the meeting.

Income:- had increased considerably largely due to the logging, donations, observatory income from the key fobs and subscriptions.

Expenditure:- The bank Balance is very healthy but it was pointed out that there are still projects in the pipeline for which funds have been earmarked. Even after this consideration a working balance of about £5.000 will remain at the end of the new financial year.

The treasurer was asked questions and the accounts were then approved by the meeting.

6. **Acceptance of Accounts:-**

Proposer:- Jim Bunting

Seconder:- Ian Ramus

7. **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2019:- Tim Light**

Proposer:- Eric Read

Seconder:- Anne Jenks

8. **Any Proposed changes to the MCV Constitution:-** No changes had been recommended by the management committee and none had been received from members.

9. **Conservation Officer's Report:-** This included an update on the Biodiversity Action Plan which is the basis for all the work undertaken by MCV.

Members were first asked to remember the very sad loss of two members:

The lovely SOPHIE BEATON and the irrepressible MERVYN COUZENS.

Keith had set up a slide show using photographs to give a quick whistle-stop round-up of the 2018/19 activities and some of the special animals seen over the past year.

a) January:- New Forest National Park – Volunteers Fair. Over 700 visitors attended and thanks were given to David Horne for manning the MCV stall.

b) February:- The first Glossy Ibis was seen at Sturt Pond.

c) Creeks and saltmarsh Trips :- There were Eight trips when 63 different birds were identified. Thanks to Mary MacMillan, Richard Coomber and Keith Betton for their help on these trips. During 2019 eight young Rainbows Brownies and Guides have been invited on a free trip around the marshes with their leaders. Keith felt very pleased that our finances allowed this offer to be made.

d) Eider:- Both Male and Female birds and other wildlife seen on these trips were shown on the screen.

e) Spectacular numbers of Brent Geese are about this year and a lovely photograph of a Peregrine sitting on the top of a mast.

- f) A photo of a marker buoy showing 4 knot speed limit - a precursor to some real Knot which are more difficult to find out on the marshes.
- g) Photographs of Sandwich Terns allowed the members to note their plumage and thanks to Richard Coomber for his excellent photograph of a Common Harbour Seal gazing at the camera.
- h) NFACV (New Forest Area Conservation Volunteers) gave invaluable help to clear Rhododendrons – a difficult task.
- i) Annual Footpath repairs in the Pleasure Grounds in conjunction with the Parish Council. Parish Clerk Graham Wells and Jason Robbins have had a big input.
- j) Dane Stream Revetment works, including the biggest revetment scheme yet.
- k) Mike Collison was thanked for his efforts at the New Comers' Supper and in April MCV participated at the National Park's Wild Play Day at Hurst Spit;
- l) Much work has been done clearing scrub and enhancing rich grassland flora , with the help of the inquisitive Dexter cattle. Also clearing fallen trees and planting hedgerow shrubs.
- m) In July the first ever Ringlet Butterfly was recorded on Studland Common and a Summer BBQ was held at the Guide Hut.
- n) Going into the Autumn activities such as the Wildlife Quiz and talk by Gill Perkins CEO of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust were held and we participated in Pete Durnells Lymington and Keyhaven Nature Reserve Open Day Event.
- o) Working with the community saw the Silver Surfers and the Brownies bird watching and visiting the hides.
- p) A great deal of heavy work was achieved including the renovation of the Bird Hide steps, thanks to Martin Gretton and Tony Locke. Thirty-plus Logging sessions (thanks given to Steve & Lorraine Mabbett – taking a well-earned rest in Antarctica) and Churchyard vegetation clearance. Also thanks go to Chris Mabey for clearing the Eastern side of the orchard along with more fruit tree planting and pruning – thanks to David Horne.
- q) Another first recording was of an Otter in The Pans Kingfisher Pool photographed but not seen since. Also, in September, a first sighting and photographs of Bittern were taken near the bird observatory by Matthew Barfield and Chris Barrass.
- r) Health and Safety issues have been addressed with the purchase of Hi- Viz vests for volunteers also providing MCV with some publicity.
- s) Kevin Cox – the newly appointed Chairman of the RSPB visited the observatory and complimented MCV on their efforts in providing this amenity.
- t) Swift Boxes have been purchased, hoping that builders would include them in their designs for new properties. No swifts currently nest in the area so it is hoped to attract them to Milford.
- u) Binoculars have been bought – 7 pairs – to be loaned to youngsters when they participate in the free Birding Trips on the saltmarshes. Thanks to Mary MacMillan who sourced and purchased them for MCV
- v) More recently Mike Collison and Tony Locke represented MCV at the community centre for the Big Info Day.
- w) 2018 saw MCVs first MAJOR AWARD given by the Country Land Association and the New Forest National Park for MCVs and the Parish Councils outstanding work in land management.
- x) Thanks were given to the Bird Hide Keyholders, for all the bird surveys carried out and to Tani Read and surveyors for the Butterfly Transects.

**Presentation of the Mervyn Couzens Trophy for the Volunteer of the Year Award.** Liz Couzens, Mervyn's wife, presented the Trophy to **Ken Hoare** for his outstanding contribution to MCVs objectives and aspirations.

10. **Election of officers and committee members:-**

Chairman:- Tony Locke. Vice Chairman:- David Horne

Secretary:- Anne Jenks. Treasurer and Membership Secretary :- David Cobbett.

Conservation Officer:- Keith Metcalf. Minutes Secretary:- Penny Ramus

Committee members:- Lorraine Mabbett, Mary MacMillan, David Burch, Martin Gretton and Rita Conroy.

These people were proposed and seconded by Tani Read and Mike Collison.

Refreshments were served

After the break **Keith introduced the Speaker for the evening:- Graham Giddens** with a talk on **Bird Ringing**.

**At the end of Graham's interesting talk, Chairman Tony Locke and Graham fielded questions.**

- a) A member asked whether placing rings on bird legs had any detrimental effects on the life of the birds. Graham said that thousands of birds had been ringed and that rings did not hamper the birds.

**The Chairman thanked Graham.**

11. **Date of AGM 2020:- March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**

12. **Any Other Business**

- a) Joyce Carter asked whether the Committee would be discussing the Lawful Development Certificate request for the middle field at Solent Grange caravan park. This was answered in the affirmative and would be placed onto the next committee agenda.

The Chairman concluded the evening by thanking Anne Jenks and Mike Collison for organising the Raffle, David Cobbett for looking after the accounts and as Membership Secretary, the evenings kitchen volunteers, John (Community Centre) who looked after the sound and graphics displays, Julie Hallows and David Cobbett for administering the Observatory electronic Key-fob system, Angela Bunting for updating the MCV website, Minutes Secretary, all officers and committee members and all MCV members attending the AGM, all of whom had helped the evening run so smoothly.

**The Chairman closed the evening at 19.45 and wished everybody a safe journey home**