

Minutes 2019 Feb 5th Rugby Group of WWT

Present : - Steve Wright (SW); Laurence Wilbraham (LW); Ken Monk (KM); Karl Cutis (KC); Phil Parr (PP); Carl Jones (CJ); Neville Weston (NW); Richard Beswick (RB); Ray Hodges (RH)

Apologies Peter Hanby, Jan Elliott, Jon Bourne and Derek Lill.

Agenda: - **Treasurer's report.**

Reports from the reserves

Matters arising from last year's minutes

Newbold Quarry

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

Election of Committee members

AOB

Treasurer's report (see attached)

A copy was passed round. MR has sent a copy to Finance Dept at Brandon.

Reports from the reserves

Swift Valley (see attached report)

Pernicious weeds are spreading from surrounding land owned by developers. The land was previously privately owned and when left fallow attracted many seed eating birds, yellowhammers and linnets. NW's bird survey shows 77 species, which is lower than usual.

Small short platforms to enable volunteers to climb over fencing are needed, KC to organise through the Trust. The grazing arrangement on the reserve is largely working well.

Cock Robin Wood (see attached report)

MR read out DL's report.

KC found some archive photographs of the area before Sainsbury's was built showing the land before Cock Robin Wood was planted.

Ashlawn Cutting (see 2018 Conservation Report from PP)

Approx 3000 Volunteer hours put in. KC made a note about the treatment of Azolla which has reappeared in water near the marsh. SW said that we should attempt to eliminate non-native bluebells from the reserve. Badger latrine found by Onley Lane. Local half marathon interrupted SEWA Day and left some signage for us to clear up. KC will investigate. KC to speak to CW at RBC about the need for the use of a chipper and for the edges of the track bed path to be cut as agreed. D. Whitlock no longer does the work for the Council.

Matters arising from last year's minutes.

No-one had any comment.

Newbold Quarry

KC organised a party of divers to see what was in the Quarry in May, no crayfish of any type found unfortunately, but some fish and two cars dating from the 1970s. The event attracted many residents and the local press. Workparties have taken place lead by Staff from Brandon and plans are afoot for a local volunteer group to take over when RB and RH have been trained as Workparty Leaders. NW offered guidance.

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

We get a steady stream of perhaps 6 people a year showing interest in joining our group, they come to our sessions once or twice and then we never see them again. What's to be done? We do need more volunteers so perhaps Wendy (Wendy Knott, Volunteer Coordinator at the Trust) could help us with a survey to find out what people expect from volunteering and how we can encourage them to stay.

Election of Committee members. All re-elected, but MR gave one year's notice for her intention to resign as secretary.

AOB

RH's suggestions for the use of the website as follows

- Posting the dates for the next meeting places (for Ashlawn Cutting workparties)
- Expected tasks for each date
- Training on website management, especially for work party leaders' so that they can make their own updates

Well done to SW for successfully attending a Chainsaw course and gaining a Certificate for chainsaw maintenance, cross cutting and felling.

MR thanked KC from the Trust and the volunteers for attending the meeting.

KC thanked the volunteers for their hard work throughout the year.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed.

Margaret Richards (secretary)