

Notes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm at Otterton Village Hall on 25 September 2018

Present: Bob Wiltshire (BW) Chairman, Penny Kurowski (PK) Hon Sec, Jacqui Baldwin.(JB), Pat Porter (PP), Geoff Porter (GP), Haylor Lass (HL), David Hatch (DH), Geoff Lake (GL).

Apologies: George Maddaford, (GM), Jon Roseway (JR) Hon Treasurer, David Daniel (DD), Nicky Daniel (ND) Clive Bowman (CB).

- 1 Minutes of the EC meeting held on 14 August 2018 were agreed and signed.

The EC discussed the following matters:

- 2 The double-sided display board at Otterton Church is in place and the EC discussed display of OVA leaflets.
- 3 Himalayan Balsam (HB) work including the well-attended HB awareness event, and future work by OVA volunteers. DH and GP have produced a new HB leaflet, and will present it at the next EC meeting.
- 4 The annual litter pick, scheduled for Saturday 23rd March at 11am, to fit with the tides.
- 5 DH's plans for a phased approach to sowing harebell seeds in Jubilee Meadow.
- 6 The trees planted on 3 Pines Hill; these are doing well, but as yet the area is unfenced.
- 7 The Christmas Party – plans are progressing well.
- 8 The proposed farm visit, the EC decided to ask Stantyway Farm for a visit next year.
- 9 GM is in negotiations with the Golf Club for a “strawberry tea and bubbles” event for the OVA Ruby Anniversary. The EC agreed with a suggestion that original members of the OVA should be invited as guests.
- 10 The EC agreed to continue to provide drinks at talks. PK to ask Martin to mention this in his email reminders.
- 11 GL confirmed that none of this season's talks would be held in Colaton Raleigh, and suggested using a venue there for a one-off event next year.

12 Planning

- ND has responded to a number of planning applications, with input from the EC obtained electronically.
 - A project for the National Trust is using the planning process and decisions regarding the “Land to the rear of Pynes Close, East Budleigh” as a case study.
 - HL circulated a planning application in Newton Poppleford (18/2016/FUL) to which the Parish Council had unanimously objected. The EC agreed that HL should pass the information to ND so she could put in an objection on behalf of the OVA
- The EC discussed the planning system and how it might be possible to have more influence.

- 13 The application for the AONB's Acland Award, which focussed on the OVA walks programme, won 2nd place. The OVA had received a certificate and plaque together with a prize of vouchers which the EC agreed that the should be used as a raffle prize.
- 14 The Treasurer's report had been circulated.
- 15 The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated. Numbers are increasing but still slightly below last year's. EC members were reminded to put their initials on membership forms which they hand out.
- 16 PK circulated the Ottery Heritage Society newsletter.
- 17 Asset List – BW to email EC members asking them to let him know which assets of the OVA they hold., so that he can compile a list.
- 18 BW had received an email asking that the OVA considers making use of Salem Chapel as a venue. The EC agreed that BW should respond that it was not suitable, due to lack of parking.
- 19 BW has tried without success to contact Civic Voice regarding fees. ND and DD will try when they attend a meeting
- 20 BW, ND, HL and GP met with Sam Bridgewater (CDE) and Mike Williams and Megan Rimmer from the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss the LORP. Whilst nothing is certain, matters are progressing – there is a preferred scheme, and investigations are being finalised.

- 21** Following a request by Sam Bridgewater, a meeting with John Varley of CDE has been arranged for 13 October. ND and BW will attend for OVA, and an agenda has been requested.
- 22** Upcoming conferences:
- CPRE Housing Needs Conference. No-one present at the meeting was able to attend. The report should be available on the CPRE website.
 - Catchment Communities Conference on 19 October – BW to attend, and possibly GP.
 - Devon History Society – DD and ND may attend.
 - LORP Stakeholders Meeting on 16 October – HL and GP to attend.
- 23** BW requested that DH, ND and PK circulate the EC with lists of members of the NEC, Planning Committee and Walks Team respectively
- 24** The Historical Guide to the Lower Otter Valley will not be reprinted, and there are only a few copies left, so JB was asked to remove it from the list of publications in the newsletter.
- 25** The Tourist Information Centre in Budleigh Salterton has asked if they can include some of the “Walk around Budleigh Salterton” in their annual booklet about the town. The EC agreed this would be fine.
- 26** JB will put flyers in the newsletters for Andrew Beresford's round to ask for a new distributor. The EC suggested doing a similar thing for the newsletters for Colaton Raleigh, asking if anyone was interested in the role of village representative.
- 27** BW had circulated a proposed job description for a publicity officer. Following comments, he will refine this to ensure it fits with OVA rules.
- 28** Rickety Bridge is still not repaired. A steel bridge is planned, and this needs a crane to lift it into position.
- 29** There is a new planning application from Ladram Bay, for the installation of underground gas tanks in a previously undeveloped area in the AONB; the Parish Council has strongly objected
- 30** The footpath in Newton Poppleford which was previously closed is now open. The new school buildings are now open and in use.