

**Notes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at 7.30pm at Otterton Village Hall
27 February 2018**

Present: Roger Saunders (RS) Chairman, David Daniel (DD), Penny Kurowski (PK) Hon Sec, Nicky Daniel (ND), David Hatch (DH), Geoff Lake (GL), George Maddaford (GM), Pat Porter (PP), Geoff Porter (GP), Bob Wiltshire (BW), Jacqui Baldwin (JB).

Apologies: Jon Roseway (JR), Haylor Lass (HL), Clive Bowman (CB).

Minutes of the EC meeting held on 23 January 2018 were confirmed and signed. No matters arising.

The EC discussed the following matters.

1. The annual review seminar on Himalayan Balsam (HB) at Clinton Devon Estates (CDE). There is no news yet on the rust trial. Plans for tackling HB hotspots and reducing the impact of the FAB project on spread of HB were considered.
2. A proposal from Dee Woods to organising a Skittles Evening for OVA members at the Maltster's Arms. The EC agreed that Dee should go ahead with this.
3. Issues with the OVA website, cookies and the privacy policy section. CB and Martin Smith will address this once the final version of the privacy information is ready.
4. **Planning**
 - Blackhill Quarry Planning Application (17/3022/MOUT) – RS, ND and HL had met with Dr Sam Bridgewater (SB) from CDE. He outlined the possibility of remediation of other nearby sections of land which would be better for wildlife than the area which is the subject of the planning application.
 - Local Heritage Assets – ND has heard from Geoff Jung (Otterton Councillor) that planning officials are meeting in March to put the heritage strategy before cabinet. ND to provide an article on planning for the newsletter.
 - Behind Hayes, Otterton Planning Application 17/2647/RES. ND has spoken with the neighbours and advised that the OVA are not the best people to speak at the planning meeting.
5. The walk team met 2nd February to review the year. Walk leaders are being encouraged to promote the walks programme and the team will try and get one if its members on all walks. Walk details are now on "Hubcast" leading to one walk also appearing in the Budleigh Diary.
6. The nomination form for committee members was circulated and completed by those present. The EC discussed the AGM insert for the middle of the next newsletter. Next year's AGM is booked for Thursday 9th May 2019 at Newton Popleford Pavilion.
7. The Treasurer's report was presented.
8. The Membership report. Membership numbers are steadily increasing.
9. Publications and correspondence from Devon History Society, Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Devon Wildlife Trust were circulated.
10. The request from the Fairlynch Museum for a donation towards the cost of the Museum's loan of "The Boyhood of Raleigh" by Millais. It was agreed to donate £200
11. The funds raised by this season's series of talks, especially the talk on Beavers; it was agreed to donate £200 to Devon Wildlife Trust.
12. The newsletter deadline is 16th March. JB has plenty of material.
13. OVA publications are selling well at Otterton Mill.
14. Otterton Neighbourhood Plan is at the stage of presenting the results of questionnaires; the major concern appears to be traffic.
15. The trees on Anchoring Hill, which are suffering, and the possibility of similar action to that at Three Pines Hill.
16. Ideas for celebrating the OVA's 40th Anniversary which is in 2019.