

Notes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm 28th January 2020, Otterton Village Hall

Present: Bob Wiltshire (BW) Chairman, Jacqui Baldwin (JB), Peter Baldwin (PB), Clive Bowman (CB), David Daniel (DD), David Hatch (DH), George Maddaford (GM), Geoff Porter (GP), Pat Porter (PP), Jon Roseway (JR), Roger Saunders (RS), Martin Smith (MS).

Apologies: Nicky Daniel (ND), Haylor Lass (HL)

Minutes of the EC meeting held on 26th November 2019 were agreed and signed.

The EC discussed the following matters

1. An OVA representative attended the inaugural meeting about ELMS (Environmental Land Management Scheme). The scheme could offer a real opportunity for habitat improvement as it is based on environmental benefit rather than the amount of land farmed. ELMS is overseen by DEFRA and is still very much in pilot phase with 37 sites nationwide, including four in Devon.
2. We are waiting for a new fence to be erected before re-planting pine saplings at Three Pines. We hope it will be completed by the end of February.
3. The OVA plans to deploy the new gazebo at Heath Week Sunday this summer.
4. OVA Litter-pick (Saturday 4th April) Fliers are completed, no representative expected from Otterton Parish Council, but a rep. from East Budleigh PC will be present.
5. Christmas Party went well, with 91 attendees, a few less than last year. Receipts from the raffle (£301) will be donated to the Devon Wildlife Trust Horseshoe bat programme.
6. New Members Party - We have over 200 new members since the last new members party, Bicton Park was suggested as a possible venue.
7. Talks programme – Seaton Hoard talk had 68 attendees, including 15 non-members. Average attendance to date has been 67 people, with a surplus of £180 plus a further £54 from refreshment sales. The postponed talk (Mapping the Otter Valley) has been rescheduled for April 23rd, 3pm at the Peter Hall. The next talk (Horseshoe Bats) is on the 19th February.
8. Renovation of the lookout at Stantyway Farm is underway, the farmer (Sam Walker) has found a lot of new information about the history of the structure. East Budleigh mobile phone mast has been referred to planning ombudsman as planning guidelines may not have been followed.
9. Walk Team – Proposal for subsidised food and skittles evening for Walk Leaders endorsed by committee.
10. Membership numbers up 40 on 2018, for total of 887
11. Treasures report circulated.
12. There will be two EC vacancies to fill before the next AGM, Natural Environment Head and Planning
13. The committee noted the passing of Don Papworth, who was Vice Chair and Secretary to the OVA 1985 -1991.

Next Executive Committee meeting 25 February 2020 at 7pm Otterton Village Hall