

Notes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm 26th November 2019, Otterton Village Hall

Present: Bob Wiltshire (BW) Chairman, Jacqui Baldwin (JB), Peter Baldwin (PB), David Daniel (DD), Nicky Daniel (ND), David Hatch (DH), Haylor Lass (HL), Geoff Porter (GP), Pat Porter (PP), Roger Saunders (RS), Martin Smith (MS).

Apologies: Clive Bowman (CB), George Maddaford (GM), Jon Roseway (JR).

Minutes of the EC meeting held on 22nd October 2019 were agreed and signed.

The EC discussed the following matters

1. Otterton Parish Council still to confirm that they will present prizes at next litter pick.
2. Himalayan balsam season complete, team has expanded area of coverage to include Dalditch Reservoir and Brook area as well as Colaton Raleigh brook
3. Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) is testing new ideas for land management, replacing current schemes for farming and environmental support. Clinton Devon Estates and Westcountry Rivers Trust are interested in participating, and have invited the OVA to attend the first meeting in December.
4. Otterton Maize harvesting has led to significant environmental damage to the fields and local waterways through massive water run-off. OVA contacted Environment Agency (EA) as a result the EA is demanding remediation action.
5. Christmas Party – Ninety-one attendees so far. All major planning completed
6. Talks programme – Two talks completed, both with good attendance (79 and 54). Next talk postponed as hall being used for general election voting. Discussion about encouraging more members by having a talk during the day instead of in the evening.
7. OVApedia updated on website, now close to 200 articles. OVA helping Rob Jones with his River Otter project.
8. Planning: Local heritage workshops completed, 14 attendees trained. Another session is planned for December. CDE have applied for planning permission to build a driveway on the former Hub garden area as a precursor to seeking permission to build two houses. OVA will object, pointing to prior refusal of previous application due to its lack of enhancement of the recreational area.
9. Treasurers report circulated
10. Deadline for next newsletter is 13th December
11. New memorial tree for John Brennan (former OVA Chairman) planted, OVA contributed £77 towards cost.
12. EC agreed that an Events person would be very helpful, and will continue efforts to recruit.
13. Planning and NEC chairpersons will stand down at the AGM