

Notes of the Executive Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm 24 September 2019, Otterton Village Hall

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

Apologies: Jacqui Baldwin (JB).

Minutes of the EC meeting held on 13th August 2019 were agreed and signed.

The EC discussed the following matters

1. Westcountry Rivers Trust have offered grant money to the OVA for Himalayan Balsam work. The Natural Environment Committee proposes to apply for a grant to purchase a replacement gazebo, EC agreed to top up funds if necessary. A good number of volunteers have turned out this year for the balsam clearance events, allowing expansion of area covered to include Dalditch Lane.
2. Pine saplings planted at Pullhayes Farm have been destroyed by cattle, EC agreed to replace if farmer agrees to erect stock-proof fence.
3. Christmas Party – Menu confirmed with vegan options for all courses, murder mystery script completed, and advert ready for placement in next OVA newsletter.
4. Talks programme – The January talk date has been changed to January 22nd. The EC decided that the cost of an annual subscription would be reduced by the amount of the talk entry fee, if a completed membership application form was filled in with required bank details. Display boards and banner to be brought to the first talk, publicity has been arranged in both the Exmouth Journal/ Budleigh Journal and Budleigh Diary.
5. Planning: Newton Poppleford (Venn Ottery/Southerton) barn conversion does not appear to meet criteria for an AONB area development, OVA to write objection. Dalditch Lane barn conversion to annexe and holiday lets opposed by Natural England as it is within 400 meters of the Pebblebed Heaths. East Budleigh development behind Sir Walter Raleigh pub is being built higher than the original approved plans, EDCC have agreed to amend the plan rather than enforce compliance. The National Trust has highlighted this planning approval as an example of poor decision making in a conservation area.
6. The Chairman attended the AONB Acland Award evening. The award winner was East Budleigh Children's Playground development. The Chairman invited further suggestions for Lime Kiln car park plinth, RSPB suggested.
7. Newsletter draft expected to be completed in the next few days
8. Plans for LORP are now available for EC members to view. The project would like to keep the number of visitors limited to avoid stressing the wildlife.