

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

Present: Bob Wiltshire (BW) Chairman, Jacqui Baldwin (JB), Clive Bowman (CB), David Daniel (DD), Nicola Daniel (ND), David Hatch (DH), Geoff Lake (GL), Haylor Lass (HL), George Maddaford (GM), Pat Porter (PP), Geoff Porter (GP).

Apologies: Penny Kurowski and Jon Roseway

The Chairman welcomed Peter Baldwin, Martin Smith and Gareth Thomas as observers in anticipation of their forthcoming election to the EC.

1. **Minutes** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January were approved and signed.

The EC discussed the following matters:

2. **Litter Pick** Publicity is in hand. The EC agreed that GP should purchase 2 x WH Smith vouchers to the value of £15 for prizes.
3. **National Meadows Day on 6th July.** The Walk Team is organising an event at Hogchester Farm, Dorset, hoping to link up with Dorset Wildlife Trust.
4. **Heath Week** (22nd to 28th July). The NEC will organise OVA involvement with stand etc.
5. **Himalayan Balsam Campaign** – a useful meeting was held on 25th February with CDE and other interested parties. It had been agreed to have a “Balsam Free Bicton” campaign this year. The new HB leaflet was circulated and agreed. Quote for printing 1,000 leaflets to be obtained. DH to draft an email for BW to send to the Parish Councils in the area highlighting the HB issue and asking them to take responsibility for their own ‘patch’.
6. **Woodland** – It was agreed to publish a newspaper article on Ancient Woodlands in the newsletter and to encourage members/the walks team to get involved. CB to contact the Woodland Trust to see how the OVA can assist.
7. **Ruby Anniversary** – Arrangements confirmed by GM, Founder Members invitations in hand with PK. Agreed to have background music from Exmouth Community College for a donation of £50. CB has ticketing etc in hand.
8. **Christmas Party** – Jenny Young had volunteered to organise this years’ party and would contact PP/GP for information. Another member, Steve Haggard, will create a ‘Murder Mystery’ for the evening’s entertainment. It was agreed that Monday 16th December would be the preferred date for the event.
9. **The OVA Archives** - It was noted that the OVA ‘archives’ are randomly stored in various ways and various places. OVA does not currently have an official archivist to manage this. BW to contact a member who may be interested in taking on this task
10. **Heritage Strategy** – EDDC’s Strategic Planning Committee has completed consultation on a draft Heritage Strategy (2019-2031) and this has now been adopted by the Council. The Council have now asked for volunteers to help assess Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. It was agreed that OVA should offer to assist and recommend East Budleigh as an appropriate ‘pilot’ area.
11. **Planning issues in Budleigh Salterton**
 - CB to lodge objection to felling of a cypress tree adjacent to Madeira Walk.
 - A George V postbox in BS (which was on the Heritage Asset List) has been damaged by a lorry and removed. Trevor Waddington and the Town Council are now involved in securing the future of the postbox.
 - Planning Permission has been approved for yet another house in a garden on the East Budleigh Road despite the provisions of the Neighbourhood Plan and a number of objections. ND suggested that time spent on production of the BS Neighbourhood Plan was time wasted.

- 12. Planning issues in Otterton**
It is likely that Ladram Bay will be 'relocated' to Budleigh Salterton council ward. There are five outstanding planning applications which were due to be discussed at the EDDC meeting in March, however, this has been delayed
- 13. Planning issues in Colaton Raleigh**
Planning application (19/0333) had been submitted for a house on land behind Woods's shop. There is a concern that this may be a gateway for further housing. As CR has no OVA rep it was agreed to email all members in the village to obtain feedback..
- 14. The Pound, East Budleigh** – EDDC have deferred a decision on this planning application pending a report from Natural England on the suitability of the proposed new 'bat barn'.
- 15. Planning in General** – ND explained that it was the policy of OVA to support good projects, object to the bad ones and not comment on the rest. The volume of applications and, currently, delays in posting them on the EDDC website, creates additional pressure to ensure that objections are submitted by the due date. ND advised that she would be happy for additional support and to start handing over some of this responsibility to others.
- 16. Hon Treasurer's Report** - The contents of the report submitted were noted.
- 17. Membership Secretary's Report** - The report had been circulated and it was noted that the numbers continued to increase.
- 18. OVA Asset List** – has been circulated and agreed. Members to advise the Chairman if assets are relocated.
- 19. Stantyway Farm Visit** – the Chairman confirmed the visit to Stantyway on 3rd July. It was agreed that there would be charge of £5 per person and that numbers would be limited - applications to be opened randomly - as transport around the farm is by covered trailer only.
- 20. Newsletter Distribution and Postage** - The EC agreed to continue with the current system as the use of polybags would cause issues with labelling. CB to continue to email the welcome letter to new members to avoid additional postage costs.
- 21. Otterton** - The Parish Council supported the instigation of a 20mph speed limit through the village.
- 22. Support for School Transport** – The EC agreed that the OVA would support visits by local schoolchildren to the Pebblebed Heaths and local farms by contributing to coach transport. A flat fee of £100 per school visit was agreed up to a maximum of £1,000 per annum. It was suggested that OVA representatives should be in attendance on these occasions. BW to write to Kate Ponting confirming the above.
- 23. Lambing Sunday at Bicton College** Volunteers to man OVA stand sought.
- 24. New Member Party** – as there were enough events this year the EC agreed to defer a new member party to 2020.
- 25.** BW will be writing personally to volunteers thanking them for their support.
- 26.** The EC noted the death of former member and walks leader Glynn Whittle. A mention will be made in the next newsletter.