



Conservation Group for the Prestwood Region  
Including Great Missenden, the Hampdens,  
the Kingshills, North Dean and Speen



## Prestwood Nature AGM 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011

**Council Members:** John Obee (in the Chair), Sylvia Bennett, David Cann, Sue Graham, Fiona Grant, Vanessa Rickett, Jenny Smith, Lesley Stoner & Ian Waller

**Apologies:** Sue Devlin, Nic Heald, Tony Marshall, Ian and Joy Mead, Gaye Pickard and Frank Rickett.

Twenty two members were also in attendance.

**Minutes of Meeting of November 10:** - The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were considered. Fiona Grant proposed and Jenny Smith seconded that the minutes be approved. This was accepted unanimously

**Matters arising:** - Activities for younger people – The Council is looking for volunteers available to offer time during the week to work on projects with younger children such as Hedgehog Street and on Nature walks after school on weekdays

: - Saturday/Sunday work-parties and activities – Several work-parties had been arranged on Saturdays in view of comments at last year's AGM. These had not attracted greater numbers. Some activities will continue to be organised on Saturdays but the majority of work-parties will revert to Sundays.

**Chairman's Address:** - The chairman John Obee reported that it had been a normal year, busy though not breaking any new ground or new funding.

- More help is needed for work on hedgerow surveys, and work with ancient trees.
- It was suggested that we take time to reflect on our projects and take stock of achievements this past year. Tony Marshall had prepared the rationale and aims for all our projects and set out the indices for monitoring them two years ago. In respect of most of the projects, the majority of aims have been met. We are now in a position to assess them.
- The database of records and sightings continues to grow, and is being consulted by interested people both within and beyond the society. John encouraged members to keep all records coming in to Tony Marshall.
- It was suggested we use the wildlife garden as an example of what can be done at home. The garden has a large number of cultivated plants which are wildlife friendly as well as wild plants. It was included in the Prestwood Garden Trail this year which also gave it more publicity.
- The outlook for the society includes more of the same - some District Council activities are seeking help from societies such as PN, and there may be some call for partnership-working with Chiltern Society (Deep Mill Pond), WDC Rangers (Prestwood Picnic Site) and other groups/sites. Grants are available but the PN Council has to consider if we can do the work? There needs to be a thoughtful consideration of new projects.
- Disappointments perhaps include poor turnouts at some work-parties, and the fact that the membership level is not building. More recruitment needs to be considered. Membership numbers at present are 93 memberships covering 177 adults and 21 children.
- John offered his thanks to David Page for printing the newsletter, Great Missenden Parish Revitalisation Group for regular grants, Val Marshall for editing the newsletter, George Lewis for his work in the orchard, Christine Hoskins for her plantings at Boug's Meadow. As it was his final year as Chairman of the group, John thanked all council members of the past, all project leaders and all the members for their continuing support. He also thanked Tony Marshall for having recruited him and his wife Valerie for her continuing help and support.

**Accounts 2010-11:** - These were circulated before the meeting and had been seen and agreed by the Examiner, Ian Mead. The Treasurer Fiona Grant spoke about the accounts in Ian Mead's absence. Thanks to Gift Aid returns and e-mail savings on newsletters, there had been increased spending on tools, butterfly guides for the transect walkers. The Chairman asked that the accounts be accepted. This was proposed by David Cann seconded by Lesley Stoner and carried by the meeting unanimously.

**Election of Chair**

Fiona Grant was proposed as Chair by Sylvia Bennett, seconded by David Cann, and agreed by the meeting unanimously

**Election of Treasurer**

Chris Lee was proposed as treasurer by Fiona Grant, seconded by Lesley Stoner and agreed by the meeting unanimously

**Election of 1 Ordinary Council Member:** - John Obee was proposed by Fiona Grant seconded by Jenny Smith and carried by the meeting unanimously.

Tony Marshall and Joy Mead were thanked for their past service on the Council.

**Re-nomination of the Examiner of Accounts:** - Ian Mead's nomination was proposed by David Cann, seconded by Ian Waller and carried by the meeting.

**AOB**

**Publicity** Work-parties could be advertised at the PO for members of the public to see. Mary Wiles at the Bucks Free Press should continue to be informed of PN activities. There is also a new notice board in Great Missenden.

**Projects** Where possible these should be marked on a Walkers & Riders Map and made available to Members.

**Queen's Award and Citation** These were presented to Sue Devlin for the year 11-12 in recognition of her work in establishing the Wildlife Garden at the Greenlands Allotments and her lead role in PN's Peat-free Compost Campaign. Sylvia Bennett accepted them on Sue's behalf in her absence.

After an apple-themed refreshment break the meeting re-assembled to consider **Sheepwash Pond**. Fiona reported that the pond had been cleared using funding made available on the understanding that it would be established as a wildlife area. Some local people have adopted the pond and carried out 'improvements' that are not compatible with encouraging wildlife such as mowing long grass areas, applying weed-killer to stands of nettles, feeding ducks. PN will use forth-coming work-parties to consult with local people about how to meet the terms and conditions of the grant but yet satisfy local needs.

Val Marshall  
November 2011