



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



Prestwood Nature AGM 6th November 2012

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

Apologies: Ian Waller, Tony Marshall, Ian and Joy Mead, David and Tina Hillas.

Around thirty members were also in attendance.

1 Minutes of Meeting of November 11: - The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were considered. John Obee proposed and Lesley Stoner seconded that the minutes be approved. This was accepted unanimously

2 Matters arising: - There were no matters arising

3 Chairman's Address: - The chairman Fiona Waller introduced the Five Year Plan that the Council members had been working on and were looking to implement over the forthcoming period. Five areas for improvement would be targeted: -

1. **Membership**

The council are keen to deliver a programme that delivers what people want. In order to hear from more members of all the local communities that PN serves, an increased membership of 200 people/families is to be targeted. A leaflet drop was an example of measures that could be taken to attract a wider membership.

2. **Communication and Marketing**

Greater use of local notice boards and display areas, emails to members, leaflet boxes at the Nature Reserve, social media such as Twitter and Facebook (which may appeal to a younger sector) and development of partnership working with other agencies are all possible ways of improving communication with members and other possible volunteers.

3. **Resources**

Greater use should be made of local expertise among the members and the local community. Central storage of equipment, careful purchasing and maintenance of equipment need attention and consideration

4. **Project Management**

Projects include Prestwood Nature Reserve, Boug's Meadow, Angling Spring Wood, the Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden, Hatches Bank, Sheepwash Pond and Little Stocking Meadow. Each project needs to be continually assessed for best practice, feasibility and outcomes.

5. **Finance**

The main costs to the Council are insurance and the printing and distribution of the newsletter. More members taking PNNews by email has produced savings of some membership fees to enable spending on the other target areas.

Fiona went on to highlight the **Annual Report** which showed an organisation 'punching above its weight' despite being hampered by the weather over the last year, and beginning to move forward in developing partnerships with the Chiltern Society and with the ex-Wycombe Rangers led by John Shaw

4 Accounts 2011-12: - Chris Lee the Treasurer had prepared the accounts. These were circulated before the meeting and had been seen and agreed by the Examiner, Ian Mead. The Chairman asked that the accounts be accepted and adopted. This was proposed by David Cann seconded by Sylvia Bennett and carried by the meeting unanimously.

5 Election of Council Members

Election of Secretary

Lesley Stoner had served three years as Secretary, and was willing and able to be re-elected. She was proposed by Sue Graham, seconded by Jenny Smith and carried by the meeting unanimously.

Election of two Ordinary Council Members: - Sue Graham and David Cann were thanked for their past service on the Council. Their standing-down created vacancies on the Council but no nominations had been received. The members present and those unable to attend the meeting were encouraged to nominate themselves to the committee

6 Resolution to change constitution:

Paragraph 4 - Take out the subscription reference and insert: '***Subscriptions shall be set no higher than necessary for administering and running the society in support of its aims.***'

This was proposed by Fiona Waller, Chair and seconded by Lesley Stoner, Secretary to allow greater flexibility when setting the subscription.

The change was carried by the meeting.

Paragraph 18 to read as follows – '***The position of chair and treasurer are the Council members nominated as the members in which the capital and property of Prestwood Nature are vested or such other members of the council who may be agreed by the Council***

This was proposed by David Cann, and seconded by Lesley Stoner, Secretary in order to assign specific responsibility for capital and assets.

The change was carried by the meeting.

7 Re-nomination of the Examiner of Accounts:

Ian Mead's nomination was proposed by Jenny Smith, seconded by Chris Jolly and carried by the meeting.

8 AOB

There was no AOB

Fiona offered her thanks to members of the Council for their support over her first year as Chair, to Tony Marshall for keeping the records and his expertise, to David Page for printing the newsletter, the GM Revitalisation Group for regular grants, to Val Marshall for editing the newsletter, George Lewis, Christine Hoskins, Hilary and Keith Tyrell for their attendance and enthusiasm at many work-parties and Val Obee for the flapjacks.

After the break for refreshments, there followed an informal discussion of the development of the relationship with the Chiltern Society, which will assume responsibility for the management of Prestwood Picnic Site from the Wycombe Rangers. Geoff Wiggett the Volunteer Co-ordinator for the Chiltern Society and Philip Pratt the volunteer warden for the Picnic Site, spoke about immediate plans for the Nature Reserve, which will in the main continue with Wycombe Rangers' plans at least for the first year.

There will be an initial work party at the Picnic Site on **Tuesday 20th November 2012 from 10:00am**. Volunteers from both societies are invited to attend. The main task will be clearing recently cut areas.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service will be held in 2013 by George Lewis for his work on the Community Orchard and in other old orchards, and at Hatches Bank.