

Prestwood Nature AGM 4th November 2014

Council Members: Fiona Waller (in the Chair), Sylvia Bennett, Julie Hopton, Chris Lee, John Obee, Vanessa Rickett, Jenny Smith, Lesley Stoner, Kieran Sweeney

Apologies: Frank Fermore

39 members were in attendance and 4 non-members attended for the talk.

1 Minutes of Meeting of November 2013: - The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were considered. David Cann proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, this was seconded by Lesley Stoner, and the meeting agreed

2 Matters arising There were no matters arising. The minutes of the AGM should be published on the PN website.

3 Chairman's Address The chairman Fiona Waller spoke of the Society's recent activities.

The Annual Report (circulated before the meeting) showed a move from conception of projects to managing those projects with a necessity to adopt methods of increased mechanisation through the use of strimmers and chain saws (with training) The membership drive had not produced very many new members so it was important to limit tasks to what is manageable. It is helpful if the Council hears of ways in which members of the wider community use and value our sites as this knowledge can be used in grant applications and publicity.

Evening talks A talk on Orchards had been well received by members and some non-members too. It was planned to continue featured talks in future.

Website There have been an increasing number of hits, the website features many photographs and interesting features, as well as vital information on activities and contacts. Frank Rickett was thanked for his work on the website. This year has seen the on-line launch of a flora of the local area built on members' records and local knowledge.

Cooperation with Local organisations PN works with the Chiltern Society (on Prestwood Nature Reserve/footpaths) and with Prestwood Village Association (on planning and access matters). PN had attended the Big Lunch. Jeanette Hedley promoted her litter-picking weekend on 29/30 November.

There would be a re-launch of Hedges and Trees recording - additional volunteers will be recruited and trained in April or May 2015.

The Council have made an agreement with the Chiltern Society that PN members should walk footpaths in the Hampden area, report major difficulties or damage, and carry secateurs for small improvements._

Projects The project leaders and newsletter editor were thanked by the Chair for their ongoing work.

4 Accounts 2013-14 Chris Lee the Treasurer had prepared the accounts. These were circulated at 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 Kieran Sweeney seconded by Tony Marshall and carried by the meeting unanimously.

5 Election of Council Members

Chairman Fiona Waller had served three years and was standing down. There were no nominations for the role, so the post was left open for the time-being, during which time the council would run without a Chair. At the end of the evening members expressed their appreciation of the time and effort she had expended as Chairman.

Treasurer Chris Lee had served three years and was willing to stand for re-election as Treasurer. He was proposed by Jenny Smith, seconded by David Cann and carried by the meeting unanimously.

Ordinary Members One council member had served three years, and was willing and able to be re-elected. **John Obee** was proposed by Marilyn Fletcher, seconded by Jeanette Hedley and carried by the meeting unanimously.

Fiona Waller was willing to stand for Ordinary membership. She was proposed by Tony Marshall, seconded by John Obee and carried by the meeting unanimously. Members expressed their appreciation of the time and effort she had expended as Chairman

Val Marshall had been a co-opted member of the Council since Jan 2013 and was proposed as an Ordinary Member by Fiona Waller and seconded by Kieran Sweeney

6 Re-nomination of the Examiner of Accounts

Ian Mead's re-nomination was proposed by Chris Lee, seconded by Frank Rickett and carried by the meeting.

7 AOB

The meeting was informed that the Prestwood Society was relinquishing the village centre notice board. It was proposed to approach the Prestwood Village Association with a view to sharing the resource and costs.

The **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** will be held in 2015 by Hilary and Keith Tyrrell for their work in Angling Spring Wood and enthusiastic support for work parties on many other PN sites.

There followed a presentation by **Allen Beechey of the Chiltern Streams Project**. This provided information about the globally rare resource of which the Misbourne is an example. As the river has flowed recently through Boug's Meadow, Allen's enthusiastic presentation gave valuable insight into its profile and reasons why its flow is so variable. We need to think further about PN's work at Boug's and beyond in light of this information.