



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



Prestwood Nature AGM 1st November 2016

Council Members: Chris Lee (in the Chair), Julie Hopton, Val Marshall, Ross McVean, John Obee, Vanessa Rickett, Jenny Smith, Fiona Waller

Apologies: Frank and Rita Fermor, Mary McConnell, Lesley Stoner, Kieran Sweeney
36 members were in attendance and 8 non-members also attended for the talk.

1 Minutes of Meeting of November 2015: The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were considered. Chris Lee proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record, this was seconded by John Obee, and the meeting agreed without objection.

2 Matters arising After a request at the 2015 AGM was made for a map of the sites with which PN is involved, a map was produced by Jerry Horwood, circulated in the newsletter and published on the website. It had received many favourable comments.
There were no other matters arising.

3 Chairman's Address The chairman for the meeting, Chris Lee, spoke of the Society's recent activities, with the aim to consolidate past progress.

The *Butterfly Transect*, managed by Sylvia Bennett which has completed 11 years of recording, had 4 new walkers this year, though the number of butterflies seen was low.

Sheepwash Pond has had a difficult year. Several ducks continue to use the pond, fish have been introduced to the detriment of the water plants, and the platform had been vandalised causing extensive damage. The Council of PN is indebted to Mark Cunnane for his speedy and generous repair to make the platform safe and accessible again.

Kiln Common Orchard The care and overview of the orchard has been passed from Lesley Stoner to Vanessa Rickett and George Lewis. This year saw a bumper harvest of apples, though cherries were not quite so fruitful.

Talks and Walks There had been successful talks held during the year on the subjects of *Glis glis*, Glow-worms and also Barn Owls. These talks had been held at varied venues with some success. The Bird Walk and Spring Flower Walk were both well attended and informative. The arranged Fungus Foray had to be called off as the woods were so dry that fungus were not showing at the time.

4 Accounts 2015-16 Chris Lee the Treasurer had prepared the accounts. These were available 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 John Obee, and seconded by Fiona Waller and carried by the meeting without objection. It was agreed that next year investigations would be made to ascertain the need for accounts of value less than £5K to be examined.

5 Election of Council Members

Chairman - Vanessa Rickett was nominated for the role, which had been left open for the last 18 months. Jenny Smith proposed Vanessa, Julie Hopton seconded the nomination and the meeting carried the appointment without objection.

Membership Secretary - Paul Heath was nominated for the role by Fiona Waller and seconded by John Obee, and the nomination was agreed unopposed.

Ordinary Members One further new council member had been nominated, and was willing and able to be elected. **Chris Jolly** was proposed by Tina Hillas, seconded by Jenny Smith and carried by the meeting without objection.

Lesley Stoner was standing down as an ordinary member of the Council due to family commitments.

Val Marshall was standing down as an ordinary member of the Council, though will continue to act as Newsletter editor.

6 Nomination of the Examiner of Accounts

Steve Adkins was nominated to be Examiner of Accounts for this year 2016-7 by Sylvia Bennett, seconded by Jenny Smith and carried by the meeting without objection.

7 Boug's Meadow

John Obee updated the meeting on the latest information available on the threat of development on Boug's Meadow. He reminded members that the PN website is updated regularly with news on the issue, and with information on the actions that the group is taking to counter the threat. He spoke about the funds for the Meadow being generated by the Co-op store in Great Missenden through the Co-op loyalty card on purchases of Co-op brands. John also encouraged members to write to Parish, District and/or County Councillors to express support for the meadow or concern about its future.

8 AOB

The **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** will be held in 2017 by Tina Hillas for her commitment and dedication to the Pollinator Friendly Garden by organising the team of volunteers and creating a much-admired restful space.

There followed an informative and entertaining talk by John Tyler on the Changing Wildlife of the Chilterns.