



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



Prestwood Nature AGM Tuesday 5th November 2019

Council Members: Vanessa Rickett (in the Chair), Jenny Smith (Secretary), Colin Tyler (Treasurer), Helen Matthews (Membership Secretary), Julie Hopton, Val Marshall, Chris Jolly and Tim Pye.

Apologies: Leslie Stonor, David and Tina Hillas.

In attendance: 34 members were in attendance.

Talk

Our thanks go to Mick Jones MBE for his excellent talk entitled Nature Conservation - Do we know what we're doing and are we doing enough?

PN AGM

1. **Minutes of Meeting of November 2018:** The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were considered and signed as correct without objection.

2. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Address**

The chair, Vanessa Rickett, spoke of the Society's activities since the last AGM.

The **Annual Report** (which had been circulated before the meeting) reflected PN's activities during the course of the year.

Privacy Policy is in place and is being implemented.

Risk Assessments have been updated and are completed regularly before work parties and activities. Several members have attended a basic First Aid course, to be able to provide initial help if required until professional help is available.

Walks: Four walks have taken place during the year. Spring Birds with John Obee, Early Summer Flowering Plants and Autumn Fungi with Tony Marshall, and Further Afield with Karen van Oostrum. All had been well attended. Karen van Oostrum also attracted several regular groups of younger children and their families for her three shorter seasonal Hedgerow Walks.

Talks: 2020 will be the "Year of the Pollinators", a series of talks to include Butterflies, Bees and the Beauty of Flies.

Project Leaders: Project Leaders were needed for all the sites, however as no-one has come forward to take on these roles at Boug's, Angling Spring Wood, and the Pollinator Friendly Garden/Kiln Common Orchard they are currently being managed by the site volunteers and reporting back to the Council as necessary.

Information boards: have been set up at Boug's (thanks to Co-Op funding) and Sheepwash. These had helped to reduce the amount of vandalism and littering at these sites this past year.

Vandalism at the Pollinator Friendly Garden: The Pollinator Friendly Garden had been badly affected by two episodes of vandalism, which destroyed the seating, the pond and the compost bins. A good turnout of volunteers has since worked hard to restore the damaged features of the garden.

New Project: PN members have helped the members of the Church of St. Peter and Paul, Great Missenden to establish a wildflower meadow by planting plug plants and scattering wildflower seeds.

Support Required: All the activities would welcome more support and assistance from members and friends. The Butterfly Transect for summer 2020 requires more volunteers to enable the weekly totals to be recorded in both local and national records.

Thanks: Thank you to everyone involved in supporting all these activities last year, with thanks in particular to the following people for their help: -

- Mark Pickard for his help at Sheepwash with the new information board and Ross Pusey for the loan of his trailer for removing the vandalism rubbish at the Pollinator Friendly Garden.
- The Catering team who organise drinks and tasty snacks at all the meetings.
- Lastly, Julie Hopton who has served a term of 6 years on the Council during which she has also organised a variety of children's activities throughout that time.

4. Accounts 2018-19 Colin Tyler the Treasurer had prepared the accounts. PN continues to take in more money, (around £450-500pa) from subscriptions and donations, than we spend. PN continues in sound financial health. Any suggestions for spending on suitable projects or equipment welcomed for considering by the Council. The accounts had been circulated before the meeting and had been seen and agreed by the Independent Examiner, Steve Adkins. The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

5. Election of Council Members

Chair: Vanessa was re-elected as Chair - proposed by John Obee and seconded by Tricia Mallett and carried by the meeting.

Ordinary Members: Council member Chris Jolly had served 3 years and was seeking re-election for a second term. She was proposed by Julie Hopton and seconded by Colin Tyler. Carried by the meeting.

No new council members had been nominated, and Julie Hopton had reached the end of her max 6-year term as an ordinary council member – she was thanked for her valuable contributions, especially in providing children's activities.

6. Nomination of the Examiner of Accounts

Steve Adkins was proposed as the Examiner of Accounts by Jeanette Hedley, seconded by Tim Pye. Carried by the meeting.

7. **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** will be held in 2020 by Paul Heath. He has served in several guises over the years including a stint on the Council as membership secretary before ill health stopped him from taking such an active role. Since then he has been in the forefront of negotiations with HS2 over their plans for Boug's Meadow and the Link Road, liaised with the Landscape Partnership over Rough around the Edges project, plus worked untiringly for the Meadow and even found time to go Balsam Bashing on the Misbourne.

8. **AOB** No items were raised - the meeting closed at 9:40pm