



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



Prestwood Nature AGM Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Held via a Zoom meeting following a poll of the membership.
This was due to concerns surrounding Covid virus infections.

Council Members during the year:

Vanessa Rickett (Chair), Jenny Smith (Secretary), Jeremy Handley (Treasurer), Helen Matthews (Membership Secretary), Julie Hopton, Ross McVean, Peta Sawyer and Chris Jolly.

In attendance: 38 members were in attendance.

Talk

Our thanks go to Martin Harvey for his excellent talk entitled 'Fantastic Flies and Where to Find Them'.

- 1. Apologies:** Chris Jolly, Barbara Rowett, Tim Pye, Val Marshall, Tina and David Hillas and Geoff Barton.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting of 3rd November 2020:** The minutes which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting were agreed and signed as correct without objection.
- 3. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Annual Accounts to 31st March 2021.**

These were prepared by Jeremy Handley who was co-opted on to the council in February 2021. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis rather than profit and loss. There was a balance brought forward of £4,243.34 with receipts of £2,435 and expenditure of £1,182, leading to a balance of £5,917.

The accounts had been examined and agreed by the Independent Examiner, Steve Adkins. Vote to approve the accounts - carried.

5. Nomination of the Examiner of Accounts

Steve Adkins was proposed as the Examiner of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2022 by Helen Matthews and seconded by Jenny Smith. Carried by the meeting.

6. Accept Annual Reports

These had been circulated prior to the meeting. Vote to approve the reports – carried.

7. Chair's Address

Looking to the future, Prestwood Nature is in good health, with the four sites going from strength to strength in showing the local community what can be done to preserve local habitats, increase biodiversity and contribute to the fight against climate change. There will be an emphasis on improving communications between the volunteers and the Council to cut down on misunderstandings and keep everyone in the loop.

Further development of social media is required to inform people, as this is the way information is passed on nowadays. The newsletter could be expanded to include more members' articles as well as records, with articles provided to local publications.

Surveys and record keeping need to continue to prevent future destruction. The new Botany and Tree Surveyors Groups should be expanded with more volunteers so they become as important as the Butterfly Transect. Results from the surveys must be regularly communicated to the membership. Liaison with other like-minded groups such as BBOWT, the Chiltern Society, the Wycombe Wildlife Group is also important.

The Council is full of people bringing different skills and ideas to the table to reach out to more people who already have an interest in nature but don't have an outlet for their energies. How to interest this group is the challenge, perhaps going in different directions looking at the area in different ways and seeing the countryside from a new perspective. This will be driven by the Council Members' own interests and passions in order to leave the group in good health upon the Chair's retirement.

8. Presentation of Queen's Award

The award was presented to Jeanette and Ted Hedley. This is in recognition of their many years caring for the Pollinator Friendly Garden as well as being involved with the nearby Orchard. Having an extensive knowledge of plants, their own garden is a wildlife haven and they have held yearly open days to show and advise on what can be achieved.

9. Election of Officers

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
General Secretary	Peta Sawyer	Jenny Smith	Julie Hopton
Membership Secretary	Marieke Bosman	Peta Sawyer	Helen Matthews
Treasurer	Helen Matthews	Ross McVean	Frank Rickett

All carried by the meeting.

10. Election of Council Members

Name	Proposer	Seconder
Catherine Bunting	Helen Matthews	Peta Sawyer
Anne Evans	Jenny Smith	Vanessa Rickett
Alice Griffiths	Julie Hopton	Ross McVean
Karen van Oostrum	Vanessa Rickett	Frank Rickett

All carried by the meeting.

11. Any Other Business.

There was a question concerning Prestwood Nature's future involvement in Angling Spring Wood. As this woodland is now owned by Bucks Council, participation here is dependent on reaching an agreement with them. This will be followed up again to allow progress.

Thanks to Ross McVean who leaves the Council after six years as a Council member.

And many thanks to Jenny Smith who has served on the Council for nearly 20 years. Over the years she has helped out on all our sites. She has held the post of Membership Secretary and as General Secretary she has kept the Council (and the Chair) on the straight and narrow for the last six years. Jenny has an encyclopedic knowledge of PN's last 20 years and her cool and calm manner will be sorely missed.

12. Chair closed the meeting.

Minutes agreed at Annual General Meeting on 1st November 2022

Vanessa Rickett, Chair.