



Rottingdean Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE BEACON HILL NATURE RESERVE STEWARDSHIP GROUP'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: Cllr Sue John (Chair) (SJ), Louise Arnold (LA), Cllr Bernard Turnbull (BT), Bernadette Skinner (BS), Bob Webzell (BW).

Chris Hayes, Parish Clerk (minutes)

Apologies: Dave Larkin, Nick Lane, Atlanta Cook Joanne Spickett, Peter Whitcomb

1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2020
Agreed
2. Matters Arising
None
3. Report on the 2020/21 Management Plan
All the proposed actions had been completed.
4. The 2021/22 Management Plan. The following points were made on the action plan previously circulated:
 - a. Mowing Regime
 - i. The amendment to the plan to reflect concerns about mowing had been noted although precisely which of the paths would be mowed remained under discussion.
 - ii. It would be important to mow the main paths and perhaps some minor ones although this could affect the plants and wildlife.
 - iii. Several informal paths had grown up as it was not possible to control where people walk.

- iv. It would be useful to have a mown path parallel to the Ovingdean border of the Reserve.
- v. It would be helpful to clarify the precise nature of the mowing regime with David Larkin and propose a path at the Ovingdean end of the Reserve.
- vi. Showing the main and secondary paths on the Maps of the reserve would help.
- vii. In the interim, a further run of 3000 Nature Reserve Leaflets, that showed the paths, should be ordered.

b. Grazing

- i. No agreement had yet been reached about the fencing proposed by City Parks although grazing arrangements had been agreed.
- ii. Now that funding was to be sought for the plan the fencing proposals would need to be clarified and this should be followed up with David Larkin.

c. Tree Planting

- i. Rottingdean in Bloom and the Friends of Beacon Hill had put in a grant application to Brighton and Hove City Council for tree planting in the village, 10 of which were to be planted in the Reserve.

5. Report of our Specialists on 2020/21

- i. Draft reports on Butterflies, Birds and Plants had been gratefully received from Peter Whitcomb who had agreed to provide fuller reports on his return from holiday. Peter had mentioned that he needed more photographs
- ii. Jo Spickett would be asked for an additional update on Beacon Hill Plants.

6. Friends of Beacon Hill (FOBH)

a. Financial Report Annual Accounts 2020-2021

Date		Credit	Debit	Balance
07/09/2020	Opening Balance			£859.26
12/05/2021	Ovingdean Tunnel Roundel		£200.00	£659.26
06/09/2021	Closing Balance			<u>£659.26</u>

b. Achievements and future activities. Louise Arnold provided the following update:

- All 6 new noticeboards had been now erected, 2 large ones at the entrances by Longhill Road and Sheep walk and 4 smaller ones at Hog Plat, Court Ord Road, St Dunstan's and the Recreation Ground. These had been funded by a collaboration between Friends of Beacon Hill and Rottingdean Parish Council with the Ovingdean noticeboard being sponsored by a local lady in memory of her husband.
- For 2021/22 FOBH would be focusing on general maintenance including footpaths and steps along with scrub bashing and pulling of any invasive species like hoary cress. The aim was to have a tree at the St Margaret's Christmas Tree Festival.
- On 29th September FOBH would welcome Brighton College students for a scrub bas session as part of their Make A Difference Day (MADD) and the following day FOBH would be hosting Portslade Green Gym for their annual visit. FOBH were planning weekend session during October to enable mid-week workers to come and volunteer.
- Ovingdean Village Open Day would be on 16th October where FOBH would be hosting a stand letting people know how to join.

7. The 2020/21 Annual Nature Report.

i. The Clerk will coordinate the material by mid-October and pass it to Louise Arnold to compile the report.

ii. The aim would be to publish the report by the end of November.

8. Any Other Business.

None

9. Date of the Annual Clean-up

This would be 19 February 2022

10. Date of Next Annual Meeting

Friday 9th September 2022

Parish Clerk

September 2021