

Friends of Berry Head
Meeting held on 15th November 2016

Present: Trevor Spratt
Noel Hughes
Alex Foley
Peter Browne
Helene Browne
Margot Hill
Dizzy Child
Stevie Tyler
Pippa Williams

Apologies: Tony Heard, Mary Foulstone, Michael Pollock

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th September and the special meeting held on 19th October had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.

Matters Arising

Noel and Trevor further reported on the current situation concerning the sum of £2100 that had been donated by the Friends' to the Countryside Trust which would allow for the purchase of a new replacement projector for the Visitor Centre and, along with donations from Premier Park (Car Park management company), WPS (Trust's insurance company) and capital from the Trust, would allow the purchase and installation of a new replacement Guillemot camera. Those present were informed that it was hoped the camera, which would be purchased by the Trust, would be installed before the end of the year.

Noel confirmed that it was intended to remove the camera during the winter months to allow for routine maintenance and to avoid the harshest weather conditions thus ensuring its maximum longevity.

Report from Noel (Reserve)

Noel further reported on the range of seasonal activities being undertaken on the reserve and confirmed that sean would be continuing working as trainee ranger at Berry head until the end of January.

Noel reported that an advertisement for new trainee ranger positions had been placed and a suitable candidate had been identified from visiting trainees. Unfortunately, the article that Trevor had written for the Brixham Signal had produced no response.

In answer to several questions, Noel confirmed

- i) that it was still his intention to set in train the proceedings that would allow the Friends' to make an application for a grant from the Greater Horseshoe Bat Project's Community Scheme.
- ii) work to refurbish the pond had yet to be scheduled but it was hoped this might commence in February next year.
- iii) The Spotter Guides had yet to be completed

Report from Alex (Café)

Alex reported that business at the café continued to increase year on year and in answer to a question confirmed that whilst Natural England had yet to decide on evening opening on a year round basis, had agreed that evening events could go ahead during the months when the Greater Horseshoe bats were likely to be hibernating.

Alex informed the meeting that whilst the Halloween Ghost Hunt had not been as successful as last year, £60 had been raised for the Friends and donations from book sales continued at a healthy level even during the quieter months.

After further discussion it was

agreed to formally record the Friends' thanks to Alex and Lucy for their ongoing generosity and support to the group

Project Expenditure

There was a brief discussion on future funding projects after Alex had briefly reported on a meeting he had recently attended concerning a town wide initiative to purchase several defibrillators to be sited around the town centre. The suggestion to raise funds to purchase and locate one of the defibrillators on the reserve proved popular.

Alex said he would try to obtain a publicity cheque from the Santander Bank in town which would allow for some photographs to be taken of the Friends' donation being presented to Noel as representative of the Trust to accompany an article that Noel would be writing for the Trust website.

Fundraising Initiatives

It was agreed that the ongoing popularity and success of the bookstall had surpassed all expectations.

Noel and Trevor reported on recent conversations with an officer (Chloe) at Torbay Council responsible for drawing up the Bay's forthcoming activities/publicity listings in the event the group wished to proceed with compiling a 2018 calendar, wished to advertise the fact and seek photographs/run a competition.

Alex confirmed that the Cafe received many photographs from visitors which could be considered for inclusion in a calendar if it was agreed to publish one.

Trevor said he would contact Chloe and suggest that she spoke to Alex on the merits of publicising the initiative at this early stage.

Whilst Trevor had explained previously why it had not been possible to hold a coffee morning at the Methodist Church Hall in town last October, the reasons did not preclude organising such an event at a later date.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 10.00am