

BARNSELEY BIODIVERSITY TRUST

NOTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Barnsley Town Hall

on Wednesday 28th January 2015 at 7.00pm.



Introduction.

Peter Roberts welcomed those present, fifteen in total, despite snow warnings. Introductions were followed by the acceptance of the minutes of the AGM held on 27th January 2014.

Barnsley Council Biodiversity Officer – Trevor Mayne

Trevor Mayne referred to the work undertaken in the Dearne Valley Nature Improvement Area concluding in March 2015 as well as to the consultation on the Local Plan and work on Planning Applications.

The Local Sites Partnership – Trevor Mayne

The annual biodiversity indicator report to DEFRA (Single Data List 160) was '16.7% sites in positive conservation management' which is down on last year (18.3%) mainly due to 19 new Local Geological Sites.

Barnsley Biological Records Centre – Trevor Mayne

As Mike Guy was not able to attend, Trevor Mayne also presented the Report for the Barnsley Biological Record Centre to December 2014. A special note was made that BBRC has now passed 155,000 records.

Report on BBT Biodiversity in Schools Project – Colin Graham

Colin Graham reported on the ongoing success of the HLF funded project, with 17 participating schools.

Hogwatch Project: - Pete Riley, Friends of the Earth Penistone

Pete Riley reported on the launch of the project to monitor the presence of hedgehogs in west Barnsley.

Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership - Roseanna Burton

Roseanna Burton gave an update on the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership.

Others present updated the meeting on progress in their areas.

Report from BBT Trustees – Peter Roberts

Peter Roberts, chair of the trustees, presented the Trustees' Report which gave an overview of progress made during the year. He paid tribute to the work of the different partners in the Biodiversity Trust.

BBT Financial Report – David Allen

David Allen gave a statement on the financial position and made a financial statement available.

The bank balance at the end of the previous financial year (31 October 2013) was £16,932.82. This balance included £250 donation from the Bird Study Group for the Biodiversity in Schools Project together with the first instalment (£14,950) of the grant for the Biodiversity in Schools Project from the Heritage Lottery Fund, half of the total due over three years.

Expenditure up to 31 October 2014 financial year included expenses for the Biodiversity in Schools project including bird box cameras, wildflower seeds: £816.66; costs of bird boxes, hides, feeding stations and ponds: £3697.74 and a contribution of £20.00 to the Bird Study group for the Barnsley Breeding Bird Atlas, a total of £4534.40. At 31 October 2014 the bank balance was £12,580.73.

Details were also given of expenditure in November 2014: costs of website hosting of £199.78; costs of production of Training Manual: £55.00; further expenses for Biodiversity in Schools project: £164.04; costs of bird boxes, hides, feeding stations and ponds: £3865.22, a total of £4284.04.

Election of trustees

Under the terms of the BBT constitution, two trustees who had been trustees for three years stepped down. There were no other nominations and Mick Birkinshaw and Alwyn Timms were re-elected. Peter noted that the constitution allowed for more trustees to be appointed and ecological expertise would be welcome.