Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

8th Meeting

6th April 2021 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-chair), Peter Jonas, Anne Gwynn, Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Sue Watson-Bate, Gavin Watson-Bate, Ju Lewis
2. Apologies: Mike Puleston (co-chair). He provided an update via email before the meeting.
3. Minutes of last Meeting:
The minutes were accepted with a change from the phrase ‘his ideas’ to ‘his or her ideas’. Matters arising are discussed below
4. Membership and Chairman’s update report (**TS**):
\* We have 4 new members making our total 35
\* John Hepburn gave a talk on 23rd March on “Nursehound Eggs: How long do they take to hatch?” which is now on the Youtube channel. It was a great example of a Citizen Science project.
5. Treasurer’s report (**RM**):
As of noon on 5 April, the balance of the bank account stood at £158.05. We also hold £17.85 cash. This brings our total holdings to £195.90. Our chief expense at present remains £14.39 per month for Zoom subscription for our on-line talks and £28.78 was paid to **TS** for these costs. Our present financial position is healthy.
6. Safaris and Zoom talks:
\* There have been no safaris since the last meeting and none are planned for the next month.
\* Tasmyn Mann a local diver and snorkeler has been booked to give a Zoom talk on Tuesday 27rd March at 1930 about sea slugs and diving off Babbacombe. Professor Stephen Hawkins of Southampton University and the MBA has been booked for a talk in May. It was agreed to hold a Zoom talk in June before the end of Lockdown. Bernard Picton has been approached to talk about sea slugs and Warren Maguire has agreed to give a talk about isopods when they restart in September (action **MP**)
**PJ** offered to draw up a list of other potential speakers that he was aware about.
7. Facebook
\* At the time of the meeting the Facebook site had about 850 members and was still very active. A new ‘About’ section has been written and new applicants must answer the three application questions and agree to abide by the rules before being accepted. If an applicant has not done so within 24 h of applying then their application will be dismissed. The rules have been re-written and can be found on the Shores of South Devon facebook site.
\* A discussion was held about the Facebook site. In his email **MP** had proposed that we start a private Facebook site with an emphasis on “more scientific/specialist” discussion. Only members of the Association would be allowed to join. It was agreed to set up a site entitled “Shores of South Devon Association” and members of the Association will be invited by email to join it if they wish. It will be administered by **TS** and **MP**. Some doubt was expressed about whether experts from outside our area would want to join the Association in order contribute, but it was nevertheless considered worthwhile giving it a try. It was agreed to put on hold a trial of an idea for the administrators to monitor all posts of the public site before approving them. The possibility of this trial will be reviewed next month. **GW-B** has agreed to be an additional administrator of the public site.
8. Rockpool project
**TS** and **SW-B** and **GW-B** had found time to survey some pools at Coryton rocks and Langstone rock respectively, using a protocol drafted by **RM**. It was agreed that it was too early to draw up a protocol that would be suitable for other members of the Association to use, but that **TS** will send his notes on to **SW-B** and **GW-B** for them to forward theirs and his on to the other members of the SG for comment. No decision was made about data storage for the time being, but **TS** suggested that rockpool monitoring should take place at least once a month, but possibly more frequently if a rapid change was noticed.
9. AOB
Messenger
**JL** started two Facebook messaging groups during the meeting to facilitate communication between the steering group (‘SOSD steering’) and the Public facebook site (‘SOSD FB Admins’).
10. Next meeting:
The next Zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th May at 1930 h.
11. The meeting ended at 21:10 h.