Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

13th Meeting

31st August 2021 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-chair), Mike Puleston (co-chair), Anne Gwynn, Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Sue Watson-Bate, Gavin Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas
2. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
The minutes were accepted.
3. Membership and Chairman’s update report (**TS**):
The display at the Dawlish Celebrates Carnival on 18th August hosted by **TS** and **AG** was a success, although the location (in the marquee) was not ideal and the lighting was too bright for the talk. Many thanks go to Seadream Experience who lent us display boards and some exhibits. As a result AG was asked by the Mayor of Dawlish to help her with line drawings at the Big Green Week and we have one new member. **TS** needs to forward on her subscription.
A Rockpool crustacean survey was conducted at the Ness Shaldon on 8th August. Two survey teams were formed and **TS**, **SW-B** and **PJ** have uploaded their results (with some difficulty), but **RM**, **AG** are yet to do so.
The planned get together at Bundle Head to discuss the SoSD rockpool monitoring project was twice abandoned because of bad weather.
4. Treasurer’s report (**RM**):
As of 31st August, the balance of the bank account stood at £149.27. We also hold £17.85 cash. £64.42 was paid to Graham Sykes Insurance Brokers to cover Public Liability Insurance worth £5m to allow us to ‘perform’ at any number of public events that we don’t organise until 17th Aug 2022. This money has been recouped from Dawlish Celebrates Carnival.
5. Safaris and Zoom talks:
No safaris are planned for September.
**MP** agreed to put together a programme of monthly Zoom talks from external speakers up to Christmas. Prof Stephen Hawkins is one; Warren Maguire is another. He will also find speakers to talk about seaweeds and sponges. He could give a talk about barnacles.
6. Facebook
At the time of the meeting the Facebook site has 937 members. All is going well and there has been a steady trickle of new members.
7. Other matters
*AGM***RM** raised the question of when we should hold an AGM since the constitution said it should be held in September. **PJ** also asked about subscriptions. It was agreed that a live AGM should be held towards the end of October with a guest speaker as an attraction. Subscriptions for the forthcoming year will be on the agenda. **TS** agreed to start looking for a suitable venue.
*Sustainable Dawlish Big Green Week (18th Sept)***MP** will organise the SoSD stand with help from **RM** and **AG**. A gazebo and table will be provided by the organisers. Some help with exhibits may be forthcoming from the MCS and **MP** will contact Jules Agate to follow this up. **AG** will organise a kiddies questionnaire and produce line drawings of marine animals for children to colour in
*How should SoSD* *fulfil its Citizen Science objectives?*A discussion was held about how SoSD should proceed now that the Covid restrictions have been formally lifted. It was agreed that we should attempt to collaborate with other organisations to raise our profile, rather than formally pursue our rockpool monitoring programme (although there was no reason for individuals not to continue with their individual investigations). The S.G. was not clear about what our relationship with the Rockpool Project should be and **MP** was asked to invite Ben Holt to sit in on part of our next S.G. meeting so that we could discuss this with him. **TS** will write to Jules Agate at MCS to say that if she organises a Beach Clean at Teignmouth on 20th Sept (as suggested to **TS** in an email) some members of the S.G. might be able to attend. It would also be a good opportunity to discuss the Big Seaweed Search with her.
*Newsletter*
The S.G. was concerned that we do not at the moment have much to offer ordinary members to justify their subscriptions. **TS** will send a Newsletter to members to let them know what we are planning.
8. AOB
**PJ** asked about progress with the Dawlish Beach Hut Field Station. **TS** said that is on hold for the moment.
9. Next meeting:
It was agreed that we needed two further meetings before the AGM. These were agreed to be on Tuesday 21st September and again on 12th October at 1930 h.
10. The meeting ended at 2140 h.