Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

14th Meeting

21st September 2021 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (Chair and Secretary), Anne Gwynn, Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Sue Watson-Bate, Gavin Watson-Bate, Pete Jonas
2. Apologies: Mike Puleston
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
The minutes were accepted. Under matters arising, **RM** and  **AG** have not submitted the results of their Rockpool Project survey to the project. (This is not a problem as the other group submitted their data for the same site). **MP** has yet to approach Ben Holt to join a S.G. Zoom meeting to explain the Rockpool Project to us.
4. Membership and Chairman’s update report (**TS**):
The Association has one new member.
The main activity since the last meeting was our presence at the Big Green Week event on Dawlish Lawn on 18th September. A discussion about it is given below.
5. Treasurer’s report (**RM**):
As of 31st August, the balance of the bank account stood at £159.27. We also hold £17.85 cash. Membership fees from two new members increased the balance by £10. We have yet to be invoiced for £12 from Transition Dawlish for hire of the gazebo at the Big Green Week.
6. Safaris and Zoom talks:
No safaris are planned for September.
The S.G. is still waiting for a list of speakers from **MP**.
7. Facebook
At the time of the meeting the Facebook site has 949 members. All is going well and there has been a steady trickle of new members, but many applications are rejected for not answering the entry questions.
8. Public events
A debriefing was held to learn the lessons from our displays the Dawlish Carnival (18th August) and Dawlish Big Green Week (18th September) since we hope to be involved in future events. To summarise: i) we need a banner or sail to advertise our stall (Swiftprint, Dawlish, do this and **SW-B** will ask her daughter for advice); ii) hands on exhibits that attract children (e.g. seashells) need to be prominently on display; iii) we need to show who we are and what SoSD is about; iv) membership forms should be available; v) we need display boards (preferably like those lent by Seadream Experience at the Carnival, or made up ourselves); vi) we should take photographs of the stall for publicity; vii) there needs to be an organised rotation of members to man a stall. No timescale was given for the acquisition of this equipment. Finally it was agreed that the S.G. should be proactive and look for events in our area this winter where we can promote SoSD - the events in Dawlish resulted from approaches to **TS** by local organisers. (Action for the entire S.G.).
9. AGM
The AGM is fixed for the 1930 h on 28th Oct at the Teignmouth Heritage Centre. Georgie Bull from the MBA has agreed to give a guest talk about Seahorses. It was agreed that notice of the AGM should go out as soon as possible and **TS** will approach Georgie Bull to get title etc of her talk to highlight a poster / flyer. **TS** will produce the poster; **AG** will get it printed and **SW-B** will gather a list of possible locations for it to be displayed from S.G. members. It will act as an opportunity for a post-Covid relaunch and will be publicly advertised. At the AGM there will be at least three items to be voted on: i) the constitution, ii) appointment of Steering Group members; iii) fees and subscriptions. It was agreed that the S.G. should have an additional meeting on 5th October at which the sole topic will be the AGM.
10. Future events
i) The Marine Conservation Society are holding a beach clean as part of the Big Green Week at Langstone Rock at 1330 h on Wednesday 22 Sept. **MP** and **TS** will be attending and all members were invited.
ii) Since the dates of the next Rockpool Project New Moon crustacean survey (4th to 11th Oct) is inconvenient for some members of the S.G. we will meet instead on Sunday Oct 3rd to do a Rockpool project mini-blitz at a location yet to be agreed. **TS** will circulate members with a list of suggested sites. Pairs of S.G. members may still decide to conduct a crustacean survey on their own.
iii) **TS** will write to Coral Smith at Wembury to see when we can arrange a local Shoresearch survey with Devon Wildlife Trust. He will cc the S.G. into any correspondence.
11. Next meeting:
We need two further meetings before the AGM. Besides the regular meeting on 12th October there will be an additional one on 5th October at 1930 h solely to discuss the AGM.
12. The meeting ended at 2100 h.