Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

18th Meeting

11th January 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston, Sue Watson-Bate, Anne Gwynn, Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Pete Jonas, Chris Bryan (had a problem with his connection and had to retire early)
2. Apologies: none
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
The Christmas Georgie Bull calendar raffle raised £44 and as **SW-B** was able to deliver the prizes personally represented a net profit for the association.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership (**TS** and **RM**):
At close of business on 10 January 2022, the balance of the bank account stood at £313.87 and the cash holding was £93.15, making our total holding **£407.02**. Income since the last report in early November (total £64), is itemised below. There has been no expenditure.
Income from membership fees (£10 each) since the last report:
F & L Gumery, Alun Morgan, G Hobbs, J Agate, Mr IC Shields, Shields & Hadow
Also £4 – for the calendar raffle – from “Seadream duc”.
ADDENDUM:
Memberships received at AGM, 28-10-21. New members: N Allbrook £10, S Greenslade, M Foden; Renewing members: M Puleston, R Morgan, P Jonas, K Sherwin, F Hutchinson.
It was agreed that existing members be reminded to renew their membership by the end of January after which it is assumed that their membership has lapsed. **PJ**  asked that a list of members be made available to Steering Group members. Action **TS**.
5. Facebook
Ju Lewis has been replaced by Jana Fischer. A discussion took place about the correct way to approve ‘participants’ (as Facebook now calls members). **TS** has amended the ‘About’ entry so that it is clear to applicants that they must agree to the rules before being accepted. The 24 h period of grace for answering all questions and agreeing to the rules should continue, but at the same time an administrator could use their discretion to ignore this period of grace in exceptional cases. **SW-B** has applied some ‘Admin assist’ rules which may make approving applications easier, but it was agreed that we still need to monitor how the new ‘participant’ system works for SoSD.
6. Talks and speakers
David Conway gave a Zoom talk about plankton off South Devon on 14th December. Unfortunately **TS** failed to set the recording going until near the end of the talk so the entry on Youtube is incomplete. **MP** has signed up Roger Wotten to give a Zoom talk about Philip Henry Gosse on 1st February and has approached Nathan Alexis of the MBA to give a talk about lichen towards the end of next month (date to be agreed). Other prospective speakers were suggested including Heather Buttivant and Steve Trewhella and / or Julie Hatcher. Action: **MP**.

**TS** has been approached by Paula Ferris to ask if Coastwise North Devon can use two of our Zoom talks (Tasmin Mann on nudibranchs and Pete Stevens on sea birds) that are in the public domain on Youtube in event of her group having to cancel an outdoor activity. The Steering Group agreed in principle provided that the talk originators were happy with this arrangement.

Our first live talk at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club on Thursday 13th January by Sarah Greenslade of the Brixham Seal Trust had to be cancelled because of concern that too many attendees might stay away because of the recent surge in the Omicron variant of Covid. **TS** has approached Rob Hughes of Sea Safari to give a talk in February but he is not available until the Autumn. Other potential live speakers are Paul Naylor of the MBA and Nigel Mortimor who is the South Devon AONB's Estuaries Officer. We aim to finally start our live talks at the RTYC with Sarah as soon as possible. Action: **TS**.
7. Rockpool Project mini-Bioblitzes
Our original plan to hold our next Bioblitz at Preston North End Beach so that it coincided with the New Moon at the beginning of January was postponed because i) the weather forecast was not promising and ii) the RPP are now holding their Bioblitzes in 2022 to coincide with the Full Moon. We agreed to a new date for the Hollicombe survey, meeting on Saturday 22nd January at 1230 h when LW is 1.14 m at 1449 h. It was agree to start inviting association members to join Bioblitzes in February. Action: all SG members are invited.
8. Banners and logo
**SW-B** has discovered that funding of up to £300 can be applied for from the ‘Making the Connection Grant Fund’ ([www.devon.gov.uk/communities/making-the-connection-grant](http://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/making-the-connection-grant)) which is available to small organisations such as SoSD. In addition, **TS** has spoken to Lyn Goodman-Bradbury, his Dawlish and Teignbridge local councillor, and she has some funds for spending by a community group in Dawlish. On 2nd June as part of the Queen’s Jubilee Celebration there will be a ‘green themed event’ on the Lawn in Dawlish to which we are invited to have a stand. There will be no fee for attending and our existing 3rd party insurance for such an event will still be valid then. This is the ideal stimulus for us to seek funding for advertising materials, such as a sail and gazebo banner. **AG** produced a suggestion for a logo for SoSD and after a discussion is was decided to ask her to produce a logo similar to that of the MBA, involving three marine species (crab, seaweed and starfish) and ringed with the words ‘The Shores of South Devon’. Further (Action: **TS**, **AG** and the SG).
9. Other business
A discussion was held about whether we should plan to make a formal contribution to the forthcoming South-West Marine Ecosystems webinair 2022. It was agreed that SoSD would not contribute this year but that we should plan to collect observations and findings this year with a view to making a presentation in 2023. **TS** and **MP** will be listening in and anyone else interested in subscribing to their mailing list should use this link: swmecosystems.co.uk/sign-up.
**TS** will be attending the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society field trip to Lundy which is being run from Thursday 14th to Tuesday 19th July. Anyone else wishing to be involved in either the rockpool or diving part should apply to join the Society via their website.
**MP** suggested that during spring and summer we invite MBA experts such as Keith Hiscock to lead an evening exploration of a south Devon shore. This idea met with approval of the Steering Group.
10. Next meeting
The next meeting will be at 1930 on 8th February
11. The meeting ended at 2115 h.