Shores of South Devon (marine life interest association)

Steering Group Minutes

20th Meeting

5th April 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston, Anne Gwynn, Pete Jonas, Sue Watson-Bate
2. Apologies: Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Chris Bryan
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
The minutes were accepted with a small change that **PJ** had in fact emailed Nigel Mortimer but had not received a reply.
4. Chairman’s report
All matters are discussed below.
5. Treasurer’s report and Membership (**RM**):
As of 3 April 2022, the balance of the bank account stood at £655.09, unchanged from the March report. The cash holding remains at £93.15, making our total holding **£748.24**. There has been no income or expenditure since the last report, though an invoice for approximately £260 for our new banner is expected shortly. There were no new members.
6. Facebook
The Facebook site continues to be well supported. Following the discussion about contributing to the SMWE annual report **TS** had been in touch with Keith Hiscock who had put him in touch with Paul Naylor, who is co-ordinating data collection for SMWE. Paul subsequently included **TS** in a round robin request for reports of observations for the last month. It was agreed that as a trial **TS** would draw up a simple table of observations from our Facebook site for Paul, but that first he would speak to him about this plan. Action: **TS**.
7. Talks and speakers
Future Zoom speakers are Heather Buttivant talking about inter-tidal sea slugs on 19th April and Matt Slater of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust on 10th May. It was agreed that after Matt’s talk we should have no further Zoom talks during the summer until next September.
**TS** has booked Sarah Greenslade to give a talk about the Seal Project in the bIlliard Room at the Royal Torbay Yacht Club at 19:30 on 14th April, and **PJ** has arranged for Nigel Mortimer to give a talk at the RTYC about the South Devon AONB on 19th May. A discussion was held about how to manage Sarah’s talk. **TS** will arrive (with **AG**) at 19:00 to set up the room, and provide copies of the membership forms, card reader, petty cash box and other material for the doorkeeper as well as the Wonders of our Shore display boards. He will be getting the card reader from **RM,** who cannot attend and will explain how to use it. Only then will we decide who the doorkeeper will be. It has been agreed with RTYC that we will use their bar for refreshments. The rough order of events is:
a) (1930 h) Welcome and introduction to SoSD (TS)
b) Talk (SG)
c) Questions
d) SoSD announcements
e) (2030 h approx) Break for refreshments from the bar
f) (2115 h approx) Finish
The Steering Group was asked to publicise the talk as much as possible (Note: in writing these minutes Sarah has pointed me to three Facebook sites - Good News Torbay, Torbay and South Devon News and Torbay Nature, all of which I’ve shared my post with).
(Actions for **all**).
8. Rockpool Project mini-Bioblitzes
The mini-Bioblitz at Corbyn Head, Torquay went very well with **RM**, **SW-B**, **TS**, **AG** and **MP** attending and over 70 species recorded. Ordinary SoSD members were invited to attend, but in the end none were able to make it. Special thanks are due to **SW-B** who kept the records and spent many hours on the RPP server uploading the data onto their database. The next mini-Bioblitz will be held at Bundle Head, Shaldon on Sunday 16th April, meeting at the entrance to the Smugglers Tunnel at 1045 h. Again it was agreed that the mini-Bioblitz should be open to all Association members.

**TS** and **PJ** said that they were planning a 3 day field trip to South Hams in May to explore the shores there for suitable mini-Bioblitzes in the future. They will be staying at Challaborough Bay Caravan Park from 13th to 15th May and proposed holding the May mini-Bioblitz at South Milton Beach which is near there. Further arrangements will be made at the next meeting.
(Action: **TS**).
9. Shore events
As agreed at the last meeting **TS** produced a Strawman paper outlining the requirements for SoSD to organise an ‘Explore the Shore’ day somewhere in South Devon this summer, which was circulated earlier to the SoSD Steering Group. In it he argued that whilst it could be a good recruiting exercise it was probably too ambitious to think of co-ordinating such a day with other organisations, particularly if it were to be held in Torbay. A compromise was agreed: i) we would hold a simple Explore the Shore event at Coryton Rocks, without any collaborators, to coincide with the Dawlish Carnival in August, and ii) we would seek to collaborate with the Rockpool Project should they hold a Blue Recovery open day on the shore in Torbay in October. Arrangements for these events will continue over the summer.
10. Banners and logo
**TS** and **AG** have commissioned Swiftprint to produce a logo and banners for SoSD. The banners are on order and should be ready for collection soon. The anticipated cost for design and production is £264. Once we own the logo we can think about uses for it, such as branding on T-shirts.
11. Other business
**MP** has submitted an article to the Mid-Devon Advertiser about the Corbyn Head mini-Bioblitz which should be published this week.
He also suggested that at the Turn the Tide and other events we should have an agreed SoSD ‘Shore Code’, for which he has already prepared a draft.
12. Next meeting
The next meeting will be at 1930 on Monday 9th May 2022.
13. The meeting ended at 2110 h.