Steering Group Minutes

23rd Meeting

12th June 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Rob Morgan (Treasurer), Pete Jonas, Anne Gwynn
2. Apologies: Sue Watson-Bate, Chris Bryan
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
The minutes were accepted. There were two errors. i) Mike Puleston should have been recorded as co-chair and the next meeting should have read 7th June. Matter arising are discussed below.
4. Treasurer’s report and Membership (**RM**):
As of close of business on 5 June 2022, the balance of the bank account stood at £138.31 and the cash holding was £114.15, making our total holding **£252.46**. Expenditure since the last Report (total £367.43), consisted of:
* £244.00 for display boards;
* £70.00 to Royal Torbay Yacht Club for meeting facilities;
* £24.65 for printing 75 A5 leaflets;
* £28.78 for Zoom fees – via Toby Sherwin.

 Income (total £68.00), consisted of:

* £38.00 - Meeting/talk entry fees;
* £30.00 – membership (£10 taken at last talk, £10 Belle Heaton, £10 G Lipscombe).
1. Facebook
The Facebook site has not been quite so active recently, possibly because particpants have had other commitments. There have been no particular issues. **MP** suggested that we should consider posting on Twitter (or possibly Instagram) snice this was popular with staff at the MBA. **TS** said he thought it might require a manager to post the Tweets (unlike Facebook) and he was asked to find a Facebook participant to show him how to do it.
2. Talks and speakers
Matt Slater of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust gave the final talk of the Spring season on 10th May, which was well received. In his talk he demonstrated the value of having someone such as him who had monitored the coastal environment for several decades. for example he has seen an increase in warm water species. Nigel Mortimer of the South Devon AONB gave a live talk in the Billiard Room at the RTYC about on 19th May. Although he gave a fascinating talk, which highlighted the threats and changes that are occurring in estuaries and was followed with an interesting discussion. He is obvioiusly and estuarine enthusiast. Unfortunately the talk was not as well attended as the earlier one by Sarah Greenslade, which was a pity. **AG** suggested that we could consider moving to Holcombe Village Hall which could be hired for only £10 an hour (compare with all evening for £35 at the RTYC) and has free parking. The group thanked her for the suggestion but pointed out that despite these advantages it was unlikely to help to encourage members from Torbay to attend, and it is not easy to get to without a car.
3. Autumn speakers
Not much progress has been made so far. Paul Naylor has agreed to a live talk at RTYC in November and **TS** has approached Mike Burrows for a Zoom talk, but had not received any reply by the time of meeting. Other potential Zoom and live speakers mentioned in the last minutes had not been approached so far.
4. Rockpool Project Bioblitzes
An RPP Bioblitz was held at South Milton Sands on Sunday 15th May and attended by **TS**, **PJ** and **RM**. 57 different species were found although it was noticeable that there were few barnacles. **TS** uploaded the results, but not without a little difficulty that was caused by the RPP server. RPP have started asking for abundance data to be included in their records, but since this was not realised at the time they were not reported. **RM** took some samples of red weed back home for identification, an action that was well received by RPP organisers. Ordinary SoSD members were invited to attend, but none came, perhaps because the invitation was late being sent out.

The next Bioblitz will be held at Livermead, Torquay, on Saturday 18th June (LW 0.94 m at 1603 h). Meet at the beach at 1400 h. Those expected are **TS**, **MP**, **AG**, **RM**, and possibly **PJ**.
5. General Discussion
*“Turn the Tide” feedback*
The display held on June 2nd on the Lawn, Dawlish was agreed by all to be a success. Special thanks are due steering group members **TS**, **MP**, **AG**, and **PJ** who were able to man it at different times of the day and to Association members Emma Griffin and Mark Foden who also helped at various times. Photos of the gazebo and display were posted on the Facebook site. Thanks also to Dawlish Town Council for providing and erecting a Gazebo and two tables. As agreed at the last meeting two display boards were purchased and 75 new leaflets were produced (see Treasurer’s report) the latter summarising what SoSD is about and included an SoSD ‘Shore Code’. We still have enough of them for distribution at future events. The only disappointment was that no new members joined, although to be fair recruitment was not the main objective of the exercise.

*“Start Bay Environmental Festival”*
Following on from the display at “Turn the Tide” SoSD has been invited to attend a festival at the Field Studies Council at Slapton Ley on 21st August. It will cost us £20 to hire a gazebo and two tables as well as about £65 for Public Liability (our present policy expires on 18th August). It was agreed that we should use money from our existing resources to pay for these items since display events fall within our remit, although **TS** will look for funds to support these expenses. He will also respond formally the FSC invitation.

*Dawlish Walking Festival and Dawlish Beach Hut Field Station.*
At the meeting on 5th April the possibility of holding an “Explore the Shore” day at Coryton Rocks to coincide with the Dawlish Carnival in August was discussed. Following a conversation with Dawlish and Teignbridge councillor, Lyn Goodman-Bradbury, **TS** suggested that instead of that, and in view of the commitment in August to the FSC event, we should link with the Dawlish Walking Festival at the end of September when he has been asked to lead a walk at Coryton then. At the same time we could rent a beach hut for a base during the week at Coryton which would be used to promote SoSD. Beach hut hire costs £108 per week or £22 per day and we may be able to find funds from the one of the local councils. **PJ** pointed out that in future instead of buying a beach hut we could simply rent one for a week every month in summer, say. **TS** agreed to contact LG-B to progress this idea.

*Newton Abbot Community Interest Company*
**MP** has been approached by a local Community Interest Company for us to contribute to an exhibit showing the natural environment around Newton Abbot including the Teign Estuary. It was agreed that SoSD should respond positively to this request.
6. Next meeting
The next meeting will be at 1930 on Tuesday 5th July 2022.
7. The meeting ended at 2100 h.