Steering Group Minutes

24th Meeting

5th July 2022 19:30 h, by Zoom

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Pete Jonas, Anne Gwynn, Sue Watson-Bate, Emma Griffin
2. Apologies: Robert Morgan
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:
The minutes were accepted. Matters arising are discussed below.
4. New Steering Group member
**MP** had invited **EG** to join the Steering Group and it was agreed that she should be co-opted until the next AGM.
5. Treasurer’s report and Membership:
As of close of business on 30 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**. There had been no transactions since the last report. Unfortunately none of the people who took membership forms away from our Turn the Tide stand had actually joined.
6. Facebook
The Facebook site continues to tick over. **MP** again expressed an interest in setting up a Twitter account although none of the SG knew how to take it forward. However, it was agreed that **SW-B** should set up an Instagram account in the name of shoresofsouthdevon which can then be tagged to Facebook posts using the # key.
7. Talks and speakers
There has been no further progress since the last meeting on booking speakers on either Zoom or live for the Autumn. **MP** suggested that we might be able to use the Maltings Taphouse in Newton Abbot as an alternative venue for live talks. It is close to the station and hire of the upper room would be free. It was agreed that we should trial it by holding the next SG face to face at the Taphouse.
8. Field activities
*Rockpool Project Bioblitzes*
An RPP Bioblitz was held at Livermead, Torquay, on Saturday 18th June to which **TS**, **MP**, **AG** and **RM** attended. A provisional total of 72 species were recorded and the data were uploaded to the RPP data server. The next RPP Bioblitz will be held at Ness Beach, Shaldon on Saturday 16th July when LW is 0.61 m at 1515 h. Those interested in attending will meet at the head of the steps to the beach that are below the pub. SG members expected to attend are **AG**, **PJ** and **SW-B** who will lead the survey. **MP** may also attend. **TS** will advertise the Bioblitz on our Facebook site and to members via email.

*Big Seaweed Search Week*The Big Seaweed Search is having an intensive survey effort between 23rd and 31st July in a collaboration between the Marine Conservation Society and the Natural History Museum. The survey is simple to conduct and can be undertaken singly or in small groups. Details are on the website (<https://bigseaweedsearch.org>), and members of the Association will be encouraged to have a go.

*Shore survey with a recognised expert*
**MP** offered to approach an expert from the MBA, such as Steve Hawkins or Keith Hiscock to see if they would be prepared to lead members of SoSD on an exploration of a suitable beach near Plymouth.
9. Other events
*Start Bay Environmental Festival*
**TS** has responded to the FSC invitation to the Festival and asked for SoSD to be placed under cover in shade so that we can show some movies. This request has been agreed and since we will not need a gazebo the total cost will be about £85 to cover insurance and hire of two tables. Detailed plans will be arranged at the next SG meeting in August.

*Dawlish Walking Festival and Dawlish Beach Hut Field Station.*
The SG decided to hire a Beach Hut at Coryton Cove, Dawlish for two days on Sunday 25th and Tuesday 27th September to coincide with the Dawlish Green Week Walking Festival (total cost £44). **TS** will be leading a 90 minute walk on the rocks on 27th as part of the Walking Festival. Arrangements will be made at the September meeting.
10. Other business
*Film maker***MP** proposed that he approach a local film maker to see if he would be prepared to produce a short 2 - 3 minute film about SoSD. The SG agreed to this provided there was no charge.
**MP** also informed the SG that an important contact at the MBA, Jack Sewell, was leaving.
11. Next meeting
The next meeting will be at 1930 on Tuesday 9th August 2022 at the Maltings Taphouse, Newton Abbot (subject to arrangement by **MP**).
12. The meeting ended at 2050 h.