Steering Group Minutes

25th Meeting

9th August 2022 19:30 h, at the Maltings Taphouse, Newton Abbot

1. Present: Toby Sherwin (co-Chair and Secretary), Mike Puleston (co-Chair), Pete Jonas, Emma Griffin, Robert Morgan
2. Apologies: Anne Gwynn, Sue Watson-Bate
3. Minutes of last Meeting and Matters arising:  
   The minutes were accepted. **TS** admitted that he had failed to inform the Facebook site of the upcoming National Big Seaweed Search at the end of July.
4. New Steering Group member  
   **MP** suggested that we invite Belle Heaton of Plymouth University / MBA to join the Steering Group. This was unanimously agreed but that we would not expect her to start until she’s completed her studies in September.
5. Treasurer’s report and Membership:  
   As of close of business on 7 August 2022, the balance of the bank account stood at £148.31 and the cash holding was £114.15, making our total holding **£262.46**. The only transaction since the last report was £10 membership received from **SW-B** which was membership payment from Jana Fischer.
6. Facebook  
   The Facebook site has been quiet for most of July but has recently picked up. **SW-B** has set up a #shoresofsouthdevon Instagram account and is posting a photo every week. (She said subsequent to the meeting that anyone on the SG who wants her to post a photo on it to send it to her).
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** has contacted the Shark Trust but has not had any reply to his request for a speaker and **TS** has still not heard back from Mike Burrows. Belle Heaton has asked for her Zoom talk to be postponed until October 11th by which time she will have finished her studies. **RM** has agreed to give a talk next March. It was agreed that all speakers should be offered free membership of SoSD, in addition to offering expenses for live speakers. It was agreed not to start either live of Zoom talks until October, and **TS** would ask Jenny Bennet, vice-Chair of the Devonshire Association Geology Section to give a talk then. It was decided that the Maltings Taphouse, whilst being suitable for SG meetings, did not have the projection facilities of other live venues that SoSD has used. Of those it was agreed that **TS** should approach RTYC for our AGM in November since it will have a bar open in the evening.
8. Field activities  
   *Rockpool Project Bioblitzes*  
   An RPP Bioblitz was led by **SW-B** on Ness Beach, Shaldon on 16th July when *[about 40?]* species were identified. An encouraging aspect of the Bioblitz was that *[5?]* members of the Association joined SG members of **PJ**, **RM** and **AG**.   
     
   *Bioblitz 16th August, Dawlish*  
   The next Bioblitz will be held on 16th August at Coryton Rocks, LW 0.69 m, 1608 h meet at the top of the steps in front of the chalets at 1400 h. On this occasion we will be joined by about 20 members of Devon County Council Environment Group. **TS** is liaising with Cress Whitton (SoSD and DCCEG member). The event will start with a brief introduction by **TS** about SoSD and what one can expect to find at Coryton Rocks. DCCEG will then be split into 4 or 5 groups of 4 or 5 people, each group having a mix of DCC environmental expertise. At the request of DCCEG this event will be recorded as an RPP Bioblitz with photos of the species found being sent to RPP by **TS**. Further detailed plans will be emailed to those SG members who are attending (**TS**, **MP**, **RM**, **AG** and Celia Hadow, ex SoSD member with local knowledge).  
     
   *Registration Document and Health and Safety Disclaimer*  
   **TS** produced a Registration and Disclaimer document for Bioblitz attendees to sign in future and this was accepted by the SG with one amendment, that the Instagram tag be included. The document will be trialled at Coryton Rocks.
9. Other events  
   *Start Bay Environmental Festival, Field Studies Council, Slapton Ley 21st August*We need to at Slapton Ley by 0930 h at the latest in order to have time to set up our display in time of the start at 11 am. The event will run until 4 pm. **TS** will provide similar material to that displayed in June at the Dawlish ‘Turn the Tide’ event but asked members of the SG to confirm whether they will be willing to support him by 16th August as we need a total of at least three people to be able to participate. Travel arrangements will be made once it is known who will be attending. **Action:** all members of SG.  
     
   *3rd Party ‘Performer’ Insurance*  
   **TS** has renewed our 3rd Party insurance with Graham Sykes from 18th August to cover events such as ‘Turn the Tide’ and the FSC Festival for the next 12 months for £64.42.
10. Other business  
    *SoSD promotional film***MP** stated that the film maker he was in contact with has agreed to help make a 2.5 minute promotional film for SoSD that can be posted on our Youtube Channel and elsewhere. A wide ranging discussion ensued. We will provide film, voice over, a headline speaker to introduce SoSD and other material and give the film maker clear instruction on what the storyline and end product should be like. **MP** asked all members of the SG to think about what should be included in the film in time for the next SG meeting in September, although it is unlikely that the film will be ready until early next year.  
      
    **TS** was asked to contact Chris Bryant, who had not attended any meetings recently, whether he wanted to remain on the SG, albeit as a ‘dormant’ member. (Chris has since indicated that he would like to continue as an SG member even though other commitments make it difficult for him to participate at the moment).
11. Next meeting  
    The next meeting will be via Zoom at 1930 on Thursday 8th September to allow **AG** to attend now that she now has another commitment on Tuesday evening.
12. The meeting ended at 2100 h.