



Shores of South Devon

Minutes of EGM February 6th 2025

Maltings Taphouse, Teign Road, Newton Abbot

1. **Attending:** Toby Sherwin (meeting Secretary and co-founder SoSD), Mike Puleston (co-Founder), Anne Gwynn (Steering Group), Neil and Mandy Mander
2. **Apologies:** Peter Jonas (Acting Treasurer), Sam Smith, Kevin Rylands
3. **Introduction.** This Extraordinary meeting was held to discuss the future of SoSD given the reduction in the numbers of Steering Group members. It also served as a 5 year review of SoSD with the intention of reducing the workload of the co-founders.
4. The meeting started with **TS** outlining the number of hats he held which range from Shoresearch organiser to Webmaster to Membership secretary (and more) and his desire to spend less time on admin activities. **MP** also indicated his desire to reduce the number of Zoom talks hosted by SoSD.
5. The following decisions were made:
 - a. The Association as such will continue in name only and SoSD will be directed by the existing Steering Group members, **TS**, **MP**, **AG**, and **PJ**. There will be no formal group meetings, communication between the 4 being by email.
 - b. The Association account with NatWest will be maintained so long as the Bank's rules do not change (there is a surplus of about £200 at present).
 - c. SoSD will cease to have a membership. The implications are i) the membership list will be closed; ii) there will be no membership fees or formal income; iii) there will be no AGMs; BCC emails to members will be discontinued, communication being via the Facebook site; ways of communicating with people who do not use Facebook will be explored.
 - d. Voluntary donations will be solicited at public events and Shoresearches to cover costs such as Personal Liability Insurance for stalls etc.
 - e. The SoSD website (which to date has been hosted for free) will be mothballed and comprise of a simple page directing people to the SoSD Facebook and Youtube sites. The email address shoresofsouthdevon.org.uk will be maintained.

- f. For 2025 we will man stalls at Turn the Tide, Dawlish, and the Field Studies Council Environment Festival at Slapton Ley. We will man an occasional stall at the Coryton Cove Beach Hut throughout the summer.
- g. Monthly Walkover Shoresearches held under the auspices of Devon Wildlife Trust will continue, but only at Coryton Cove, Dawlish, Bundell Head, Shaldon and Corbyn Head, Torquay. Each site will be visited every 3 months in turn, weather and circumstances permitting. Shoresearches will be advertised on Facebook. Leadership will be shared between **TS** and **MP**.
- h. Art/photo exhibitions will discontinue with the exception of a small semi-permanent display at the Strand Centre, Dawlish.
- i. Occasional Zoom talks will continue. The Zoom link and password will be advertised on the Facebook site.
- j. The private SoSD Association Facebook site will continue.

11. Other points sent in by email and not debated in depth during the meeting are:

- a. At the meeting the possibility of having a WhatsApp group for the Steering Group was discounted. However in an email discovered by **TS** afterwards Sam Stripp suggested that a WhatsApp group be set up for the friends of SoSD with the purpose of co-ordinating informal explorations of a shore, for example. **TS** will follow up this idea.
- b. Coral Smith from DWT sent a supportive email saying Devon Wildlife Trust will *“support SOSD to continue Shoresearch in the following ways (if it would help):*
 - *Covering SOSD under DWT's PLI for Shoresearch Surveys (as we already do)*
 - *Organising the admin for shoresearch surveys - e.g. advertising, organising bookings etc.*
 - *Helping to deliver surveys where possible*
 - *Volunteer training (1 bespoke training event per year)*
 - *Any other admin/support related to Shoresearch*
 - *General promotion of SOSD membership as a community group under our 'Wilder Communities' project'.*

TS notes that these offers are very welcome. It will be easier for DWT to promote SoSD as a community group now we do not have membership fees. The offer of help with Admin support has been made before but proved problematical and was not be taken up at the time. The situation may be different now.

- c. Kevin Rylands wrote in to say *“I would happily remain a paid up 'member', would also still support and learn a lot from a loosely associated group but as I don't use Facebook would miss out if that were the only option”*. Neil Mander had earlier said that he thought the £10 membership fee was not excessive.

4. **TS** will send a final email to all existing members once these minutes are approved.

Toby Sherwin, 7 Feb 2025