

Shores of South Devon (Marine Life Interest Association) First Annual General Meeting

Venue: Teign Heritage Centre, Teignmouth

Time & Date: 19:30 28th October 2021

Apologies were received from: Rachael Shearmur, Richard Walford, Cressy Whitton, Kristina Hixon, Julie Gregory

1. Introduction

Toby welcomed everyone to the inaugural AGM for the Shores of South Devon Marine Interest Association. Although the Association had started life in early 2020, its development was severely hindered by the lockdown caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Initial ideas of face-to-face talks and meetings quickly became 'Zoom' talks and meetings. It had not been possible to hold a face-to-face AGM during the past 19 months, so this represented the first.

Unfortunately our guest speaker, Georgie Bull from Plymouth University, was unable to attend due to bad weather, and Mike stepped in at the last moment to give a fascinating talk of anecdotes about some of his experiences on the sea shore.

2. Treasurers' Report

Robert went through his report which is attached to the minutes.

The report was put to the meeting and unanimously accepted.

3. Shores of South Devon Constitution

Toby went through the constitution and explained that it had been needed to set up the bank account for the Association. It needed to be ratified at this AGM.

The constitution was put to the meeting and unanimously accepted.

4. Steering Group

Toby introduced the members of the Steering Group to the meeting and said that all of these present members were willing to continue on the Group.

The Steering Group members were put to the meeting and they were unanimously accepted.

Toby then said that more members were needed on the Group, and it was hoped that they could be of working age and from the Torbay area.

Chris Bryan from Paignton said he was willing to join the Steering Group. Toby gave him a form relating to this at the end of the meeting.

5. Way Forward

There was a general discussion about the way forward for the Association and various suggestions and proposals were put forward. These included:

Mike made a few comments about the popularity of the Facebook page for the Association. He said that there will be more Zoom talks in the future as well as potential live talks at different venues including Torquay. He also mentioned that the Association may be

able to hold a meeting at the MBA in Plymouth, as the MBA had shown an interest in this when he had raised it before the pandemic.

Toby proposed that ~~there~~ the Association should have one Zoom meeting and one live meeting a month. The Natural History Museum at Torquay looked to be a good location for the live meetings. There was some discussion about whether the live meetings should be at the same place or varied, but no decision was made on this.

Toby suggested that potential charges for the live meetings should be £3 for members and £4 for guests. The charges were to cover the cost of the venue and possible expenses for speakers. There was no negative response from the meeting to this suggestion.

Based on her experience with the Dawlish Natural History Group, a member from the floor said that it was difficult to film live meetings and share them on Zoom, for a variety of reasons including the technology and speakers' copyright. The Co-Chairs and Steering Group recognised the problem in filming live meetings.

Toby said that Jules Agate from MCS had suggested that the Association staged a big event in the spring of 2022 to attract more interest in the Association. The event which could be called 'Explore the Shore' would bring in experts to assist in the event, eg. Jules Agate, MCS; Jack Sewell, MBA; Coral Smith from Devon Wildlife Trust, someone from the Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve. The event could potentially be in April.

There seemed to be general agreement from the members with the ideas and suggestions being proposed, but more discussion appeared to be needed on particular aspects.

6. A.O.B.

Nothing was specifically raised, although Mike did pose a question about the ethos of the Association. He thought that it should be showcasing what is out there on the shores of South Devon. There was good feedback from the meeting on what had been done so far.

Toby mentioned Coastwise in North Devon as an organisation of similar ethos to the Shores of South Devon.

The meeting ended at 21:30 and Toby and Mike thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.