



Friends of Dubwath Silver Meadows

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MINUTES OF THE 4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at Bassenthwaite Sailing Club on Wednesday 12th March 2014 7.00 pm

The meeting was attended by 33 members.

1. **Apologies for absence:** There were five apologies received.
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 6th March 2013:**
The minutes of this meeting, previously circulated, were accepted by members as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed off by the Chairperson.
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairperson's Report**

Rick Petecki, Chair, gave an overview of the year at the reserve and outlined our aims for 2014. Thanks were extended to all the friends and volunteers who have supported Dubwath Silver Meadows throughout 2013.

Our membership numbers have increased in 2013 from 57 to 69 and will hopefully continue into 2014. There are also a number of members who have agreed to make regular donations through standing orders.

A grant was received from Nurture Lakeland, of just over £1,330, for ongoing projects, a big thank you to them. Thanks were extended to The Environment Agency (EA) and The Lake District National Park for their continued support.

The current lease ends in 2017, the EA will not be renewing. This matter will be discussed by the Committee during this year with the proposals for the future brought back to the 2015 AGM.

The bird feeding has again been a success throughout the year. A special thank you to Pat; Bob; Graham; Gordon; Sue and Mike for turning out in all conditions to ensure the feeders are topped up.

PROVISIONAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2014 (dates and times to be confirmed)

MARCH	Reserve tidy up
APRIL	Wattle & Daub
MAY	Dawn Chorus
MAY	David Thomason & Mandy Redburn – Birds & Flowers
JUNE	Wattle & Daub
JULY	Willow Weaving
AUGUST	Peter Macqueen – Moths
SEPTEMBER	Willow Weaving
OCTOBER	Diane Dobson – Bryophytes

Website update:

The most popular hit on the website remains 'Visiting us', with Plants and Habitats second, Flowers third and History fourth. The Top 3 downloads are: Map and information; Management Plan and Dawn Chorus species count.

5. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the financial report is attached for information and is also available on the website to download.

6. **Election of Officers:**

The current Committee members have served a three year term and therefore were stood down. As no other nominations were agreed the following indicated they were willing to stand for re-election. All were nominated, seconded and unanimously elected.

Chairperson - Rick Petecki

Secretary - Sue Turner

Treasurer - Alastair Yates

Environment Agency Liaison Officer - Michelle Donoghue

Website Officer - Mike Turner

Education Officer - Dianne Cannon

Fund Raising Co-ordinator – Pat Ackred

Bird Feeding Co-ordinator – Sue Turner.

Ordinary Member – Gordon Pickering

With regard to the vacant post of ecology/habitat adviser: Diane Dobson was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected. Welcome to the committee Diane.

Barbara Thomson has unfortunately resigned as Health & Safety Officer. Mike Turner put himself forward, was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected. Welcome to your new role Mike.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Barbara for her past commitment to the reserve.

7. **AOB**

There was a question from the floor regarding the cost of our insurance. The possibility of a cheaper option was put forward, this will be followed up.

Next AGM:

Wednesday 11th March 2015, 7.00 pm. Venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

Friends of Dubwath Silver Meadows: Accounts 2013-14

Summary of Accounts February 2013 - January 2014

Income		Expenditure	
Balance brought forward from 2011-3	£4,559.50		
		Bird Feeding	£678.25
Subscriptions	£345.00	Insurance	£360.08
Individual donations	£1,156.30	Repairs/ maintenance	£771.35
Nurture Lakeland	£1,339.19	Improvements	£530.00
LDNPA	£3,000.00	Web Site domain registration	£14.16
B/S error *	£61.25	B/S error *	£61.25
Interest on account	£3.79	Secretarial costs **	£71.08
		sub total	£2,486.17
		End balance carried forward to 2014-15'***	£7,978.86
Total	£10,465.03	Total	£10,465.03
		Total available for use	£6,156.22

** These include some items for maintenance as well as more normal secretarial items such as stamps, paper etc.

* An accounting error on their part caused £61.25 (a payment for bird food) to be shown as a credit as well as a payment!

*** This balance includes £1822.64 which is ring fenced for payment of future insurance.

Comments

Income

Regular

Standing orders /memberships: £345 this year. We are very grateful to those people who have paid by standing order.

Donations: £1156 this year. Again we are grateful for these as we could not manage without them. We have had a significant increase in donations this year.

Other donations: Nurture Lakeland. This organisation has kindly given us £1339.19 this year, which has allowed us to improve the seating on the reserve, re-roof the Viking shelter and also look to improving the signage.

The Lake District National Park Authority gave us £3000 this year and we intend to improve our signs significantly with their help which we greatly appreciate. At present the regular standing orders/ memberships and donations are more than covering our running costs and allow us to look at funding improvements to the site.

Costs

Bird feeding: our single major cost.

We are monitoring this carefully and I estimate that we need to allow for in the region of £650 p.a. for bird feeding next year. This depends on the weather!

Insurance

We have used £1047.36 of the £2870 given to us by Bassenthwaite Reflections. We have £1822.64 left. This is ring fenced and only to be spent on insurance. Unless there is a large increase in insurance costs this should be sufficient until 2017.

Equipment / maintenance

Refurbishing shelters: we have re-roofed the Viking shelter this year (£743) and will need to look at wattle and daubing after the weather improves.

Further costs are unknown... £50 pa? We have had little costs so far as most of the equipment is new and only minor costs have been incurred.

Website

We paid £14.16 to register the name of our web site for 3 more years. We will need to pay from 2014 onwards for hosting the site (estimate £60 pa).

Improvements

We are looking to improving the signage which will be a major cost. The exact amount of signs will depend on our budget at the time.

Alastair Yates, Treasurer
March 2014