



Friends of Dubwath Silver Meadows

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PATRON: *Lord Inglewood*

MINUTES OF THE 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held at Bassenthwaite Sailing Club on Wednesday 11th March 2015 7.00 pm

The meeting was attended by 40 members.

1. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 12th March 2014:** 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.

2. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairperson's Report**

The Chairperson's report was included in an illustrated talk about the reserve following the AGM. (See 1 below).

4. **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the financial report was circulated prior to the meeting and is also available on the website to download. Members not on email will receive a copy attached to these Minutes.

5. **Election of Officers:**

The current Committee 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/Health & Safety Officer - Mike Turner

Education Officer - Dianne Cannon

Ecology/habitat Adviser - Diane Dobson

Bird Feeding Co-ordinator - Pat Ackred

Ordinary Member - Gordon Pickering

One of our 'Friends' indicated an interest in becoming an Ordinary Member. Barry Evans was nominated, seconded and welcomed to the committee.

6. AOB

Questions from the floor were addressed in the illustrated talk following the meeting.

Next AGM:

Wednesday 9th March 2016, 7.00 pm. Venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 7.14 pm.

1. Rick Petecki, Chairperson, gave an illustrated talk giving an insight into some of the plans for 2015. These include the production and siting of visitor information boards around the site and that links have been made with The Lakes Distillery, who will be harvesting meadowsweet for inclusion in their gin production.

A question from the floor asked about the possible renewal of the lease from 2017 when the current leaseholder, The Environment Agency, has indicated that they will not be continuing. Rick advised that there are talks in progress with other agencies and the committee is very hopeful that we will be adopted prior to the end of the lease. Further details cannot be revealed at present as talks are still at an early stage.

Nurture Lakeland, Friends and Committee members were thanked for their contributions during 2014.

PROVISIONAL EVENTS PROGRAMME 2015 (dates and times to be confirmed)

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

Summary of Accounts February 2014- January 2015

Receipts		Payments	
Balance brought forward from 2013-4	£7,978.86		
Subscriptions	£350.00	Bird Feeding	£503.65
Individual donations	£1,322.30	Insurance	£360.08
Nurture Lakeland	£1,214.48	Repairs / maintenance	£93.49
		Improvements: picnic table	£240.00
		new display frames	£198.85
		Artist costs	£250.00
		Web Site	£60.00
Interest on account	£7.47	Secretarial costs *	£65.62
		Leaflet printing	£557.09
Total income	£2,894.25	Total	£2,328.78
		End balance carried forward to 2014-15 **	£8,544.33
Total	£10,873.11	Total	£10,873.11
		Total available for use	£7,081.77

* Includes some items for maintenance as well as "normal" secretarial costs eg stamps.

** This balance includes £1462.56 which is ring fenced for payment of future insurance.

Comments

Income

Regular

Standing orders /memberships: £350 this year. We are very grateful to those people who have paid regularly.

Donations: £1322.30 this year. Again we are grateful for these as we could not manage without them. We have had a small increase in donations this year.

Other donations: Nurture Lakeland. This organisation has kindly given us £1214.48 this year, which has allowed us to improve the seating on the reserve by purchasing a picnic table which can accommodate wheelchair users, install new display frames and also look to improving the signage.

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.

Last year's mild winter meant we spent less than estimated on bird food. However we still need to monitor this carefully and I estimate that we need to allow for in the region of £550 p.a. for bird feeding next year. This depends on the weather!

Insurance

We have used £1407.44 of the £2870 given to us by Bassenthwaite Reflections. We have £1462.56 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

Costs are slowly increasing as the site ages. Some of this year's costs have been repairing damage caused by flooding, inevitable given the nature of the site.

Further costs are unknown... £100-150 pa? We have had little costs so far as most of the equipment is new and only minor costs have been incurred.

Website

Last year we paid £14.16 to register the name of our web site for 3 years. This has 2 more years to go before re-registration. We are now paying for hosting the site, so far this is costing £60 per year.

Improvements

We have spent £557.09 on printing 10 000 new leaflets for the reserve, as the original ones have run out. We are looking to improving the signage which will be a major cost with £250 spent so far. The exact amount of signs will depend on our budget at the time.

Alastair Yates, Treasurer
March 2015