**MINUTES OF THE FOSB AGM**

**HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2020 AT SUSSEX YACHT CLUB**

**Attended by Members & Friends (40 approx) and the Committee (9)**

**1. Welcome:**

Those present were welcomed by Jacky Woolcock, Chair for FOSB. Jacky introduced the other members of the committee and thanked them for their hard work during the year: Beth Osmond (Secretary), John Young (Treasurer and membership), Jan Newnham (Display Boards and Photography), Helena Lewis (Print publicity), Chris Bohea (Marine, Legal and fixed point photography), John Charlish (Social media, website & Beach cleans), Mike Riddiford (Beach Cleans and Signage boards) and Tony Benton (Ornithologist). Also Craig Ifield, Ranger for Adur & Worthing councils.

**2. Apologies:**

Doris Kingston, Councilor Joss Loader, Joy Daintree, Mavis Powter, Sonia Fox and Jessica Aidley.

Kate Bradbury, the guest speaker who is unable to attend as her partner is in quarantine due to the Coronavirus.

**3. The minutes of the previous AGM:**

held on February 18th 2019 have been sent to all members. The minutes were signed by Jacky Woolcock, as being correct. Proposed by Chris & seconded by Helena, approved by all present.

**4. Chairman's annual report:**

Thank you to the Sussex Yacht Club for hosting the AGM and the committee for all their hard work over the past year.

Thank you Keith and Anthony, Rangers for Adur & Worthing councils for all their help and support.

FOSB is now responsible to the councils and is guided by the Action Plan updated in October 2019.

Welcome to Craig the new Ranger for FOSB. Park’s team aim is for the LNR to get a Green Flag award in 2021.

Thank you to Laura Brook, staff for SWT in her support and ecological input. Thank you to Stella for all her support in getting the website updated.

Three cornered garlic has been removed in the usual sites and Silver Ragwort. Seedlings appeared in the cleared areas due to dragging the plants around. These has to be removed and changes made to the way we remove silver Ragwort. The Princes Trust has helped with invasive species removal.

Fixed point photography has continued over the year.

Still investigating the possibility of a drone survey to measure the effect of invasive species removal.

Childing Pink area was surveyed and more than expected was found. There are ongoing negotiations with the Environment Agency regarding shoring up the bank and removing the commercial grade sand at the site.

A student from Brighton university is doing a survey on the effects of removal of invasive species.

Exhibition of FOSB was open over the summer in the Marlipins museum to promote the LNR.

Rock pooling was unable to run due to the continuing Tidal Walls Project and silting up of the beach.

FOSB did a Christmas tree at the Church of St Mary de Haura.

**Future plans**

A strand line walk is upcoming.

Need new committee member (s) to take over as the Chair possible as two posts; one in managing FOSB and one focused on the management of the LNR. This is needed now so that there is time for Jacky to do a full hand over to the person or persons when Jacky decides to step down or reduce her duties.

The Wildflower Society of the UK visited the LNR.

**Education**

The Flower Walk was a great success and we again thank Michelle Trott for entertaining us and all the volunteers who made cakes for the tea. Tony Benton ran two ‘Introduction to bird watching walks’ and a joint walk with the Sussex Ornithological Society and the World Of Widewater.

**Liaison & Communication**

John Charlish continued his maintenance of the Webpage, Twitter and Facebook and Helena the publicity in magazines and newspapers.

**5. Finance Report**:

Copies of the audited accounts for 2019 were available.

The balance at 31st December 2019 was £2171.97 compared with £2283.70 on 1st January 2019.

John Young gave an explanation of the income and of each item of expenditure.

John described the FOSB financial position as healthy.

Jan Newnham proposed and Gary Baines seconded that the accounts be accepted which was then approved unanimously.

**6. The Beach Clean Report:**

Given by John Charlish and is available as a separate report.

Key highlights include the following. People’s awareness of litter and plastic has increased substantially over 2019 leading to an increase in demand to do beach cleans. Over the summer 15 beach cleans were done within 6 weeks involving groups such as the beavers, Duke of Edinburgh students and local schools.

Successfully got a donation from East Adur Lions which was used to get more child sized litter pickers.

We have supported the Refill Campaign to reduce single use plastic bottles and we are meeting with Plastic Free Shoreham to discuss ways to provide recycle bins close to the beach. We have managed beach environment awareness days for Focus Group, The University of Brighton, Wates, Lloyds Investment, Southern Water and EDF Energy and hope that this business support will continue.

Main issue on the beach at the moment is small pieces of plastic which is a hazard to sea birds which eat them. So small pieces are key to remove during beach cleans.

Thanks to the Adur council cleansing team as they have been a great support and to Stella for updating the FOSB facebook and website page.

And thank you to the public who pick up pieces of rubbish as they are walking!

**8. Election of FOSB Committee**.

Election of Jacky Woolcock (Chair), John Young (Treasurer) & Beth Osmond (Secretary) proposed by Jan Newnham, by a FOSB member and unanimously approved. Helena Lewis (Print Publicity), Jan Newnham (Events), Tony Benton (Ornithology), Mike Riddiford (Beach Clean & Notice Board) and John Charlish (Beach cleans & electronic media) were proposed by Jill Charlish and seconded by Elizabeth Chapman as committee members and unanimously approved.

**9. AOB**

Sharon, Secretary of the Friends of Shoreham Fort offered to drop off FOSB leaflets during their 2020 leaflet drop. Suggestion to approach estate agents to distribute leaflets and to have leaflets in the library. Co-working with the Fort to be carried forward as an item on the next committee meeting.

**Mike Riddiford introduced Janice Ashford to read a poem of hers about one of the FOSB committee members.**

**Break for FOSB members to pay subscriptions & refreshments**

As our Speaker Kate Bradbury could not attend due to the Conrona visus, Laura Brook from SWT spoke about the Kelp Forest restoration project off the coast of West Sussex with videos shown by Chris Bohea who had been a diver on the project.

Helena Lewis spoke about Bee Keeping. Thank you both for stepping in at the last minute!