

Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting for Year Ending 31 December 2018
held on 14th March 2019 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm
at Sandhurst Memorial Hall, Sandhurst**

PRESENT

Trustee Directors:

Mary Ferriss (Chair)	(MF)	Chris Smith	(CS)
Bernard Baverstock	(BB)	Colin Wilson (Vice Chair)	(CW)
Alan Rolfe (Treasurer)	(AR)		

Others

Steve Bailey (Secretary)	(SB)	Mike Swaddling (Minutes)	(MS)
Annie Keighley	(AK)	Christine Butcher	(CB)

APOLOGIES

Alan Taylor	(AT)
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GUESTS

Cllr. Andy Blatchford (Mayor of Sandhurst) and Mrs Blatchford
Cllr. Paul Bettison (Chief Executive, Bracknell Forest Borough Council) and
Cllr. Mrs Jean Bettison
Anne Brummer (Speaker) (AB)

Attendance: estimated to be over 60 people (includes guests, members and non-members, local groups and Trustees.)

NO.	ITEM	ACTION
-	CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MF opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all present and thanking the guests for their support and attendance. Particular thanks were due to Kebur Garden Materials for their sponsorship of the AGM. - The displays at the back of the hall were highlighted. 	
-	PRELIMINARY ITEMS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The required health and safety procedural notices were made. - MF explained the yellow card voting system to be used for decision-making to all Members present. 	
1.	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 8th February 2018	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising. 	
2.	ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MF gave a summary of the changes in our team since the previous AGM. MS had stood down as Chair, and Jane Biscombe, Peter Collins and Catherine Morton had stood down as Trustees. David Murr had sadly died. JH had given notice to stand down as Minutes Secretary owing to work pressures. All were thanked for their valuable contributions to our work. - The new team now comprises MF as Chair and CW as Vice Chair, with new non-Trustee appointments of Christine Butcher (Events), Annie Keighley (Membership), Sharon Achley (Webmaster), and Mike Swaddling (Marketing). - MF, CW, BB, AT, CS were the Trustees nominated for retirement by rotation in accordance with the constitution. All were willing to be reappointed. IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the reappointments. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sara Kinnell, BVCP Representative and new Trustee had been appointed on 11th December 2018 and was standing for re-election. IT WAS RESOLVED to approve her reappointment. 	
3.	ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS (CHAIR, SECRETARY AND TREASURER)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair and Vice-Chair – IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the reappointment of Mary Ferriss as Chair and Colin Wilson as Vice-Chair. - Treasurer – Alan Rolfe was standing down as Treasurer with effect from midnight on 31st March 2019, and MF thanked him for his contribution to the Trust. IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Shelagh Heasley as a Trustee and the new Treasurer with effect from 1st April 2019. - Secretary - IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the reappointment of Steve Bailey as Secretary. 	
4.	MEMBERS' PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None. 	
5.	REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MF confirmed that the Annual Report had been produced, distributed to members and made available online. She highlighted the appointment of Sharon Achley as the new webmaster who would be working on a new website. She then handed over to AR for the Treasurer's Report. <p>Treasurer Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total Income for 2018 was £8,654. - Total Expenditure for 2018 was £9,641. - There was a small loss for the year of £987. - The current financial position was healthy with bank balances totalling over £24k, with committed expenditure for projects of £13,850. For 2019, he expected us to be able to maintain membership income and focus on funding for larger projects through corporate donations. - The adoption of the Accounts was noted. <p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The membership figure as at 30 September had been 269. AR thanked members for staying with us through our recent problems and felt sure that these were now behind us with AK's appointment. 	
6.	REPORT OF PROJECTS, GRANTS, EVENTS and BUSINESS PLAN	
	<p>CW gave a run-through of the projects and events we have completed, were ongoing, or planned for the next year:</p> <p>Schools We made large grants and provided ongoing advice to Frimley Church of England School and Guillemont School for environmental projects. In 2019, we will work with TAG Farnborough Airport on a children engagement project.</p> <p>Woodland Flowers We provided or secured funding for an ongoing project of the seeding of native woodland wildflowers on sites in the Valley, working closely with BVCP.</p> <p>Saving Our Swifts We installed over 150 nesting places in the Valley, in churches, the RMA and Camberley town centre. 2019 will see more sites at SC Johnson and Aldershot station among others.</p> <p>Natural Surrey Heath This joint initiative with The Camberley Society to enhance the understanding and action to improve nature in the borough distributed free nest boxes, distributed the Lost Words book to schools, and staged a live event at Camberley Theatre including Michael Gove MP.</p> <p>Other projects included the ongoing work at Frimley Reedbed and Grants Moor, and signage along the river path.</p> <p>Grants and Assistance As well as those mentioned elsewhere, bat homes and hedgehog boxes were provided to local groups.</p> <p>Events Our 2017/8 programme included 10 circular walks by Paul Sanders, the Big Valley Ramble 'Beating the Bounds of Yateley', and five events at the Sandhurst Chelsea Fringe.</p>	

	<p>Other Activities The Trust raised awareness at local fairs and fetes, staged several specialist walks, and participated in local planning applications and submissions.</p> <p>2019 Events The Big Valley Ramble is planned for 28 April, and a new event, the Blackwater River Week, for September.</p> <p>Business Plan The Business Plan for 2019 is still being finalised. MF then summarised the projected work for the Trust over the next year. As well as the new website there was now a new logo, and there would be new events and projects programmes. Other focus would be on greater use of social media to improve our profile, working with the business sector for fund-raising, and attracting more team members to help with the Trust's work.</p>	
7.	ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	<p>MF announced to the meeting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Trust had negotiated with Kebur that all BVCT members could obtain an exclusive 5% discount on their products and gave a brief summary of the procedure necessary; and - a replacement for JH was being sought, as well as two new positions, for Fundraising, and Social Media. 	
8.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	- None.	
-	TALK – AMAZING GRACE WITH ANNE BRUMMER (AB)	
	- Following the tea break at 8.30pm, AB was introduced to the meeting by BB and gave a fascinating talk on the work of Harper Asprey Wildlife Rescue, in particular the Amazing Grace campaign to save our hedgehogs.	
-	MEETING CLOSE	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following AB's talk, MF gave a detailed vote of thanks to all who had contributed to our year, including all the staff at BVCP, all the volunteers but especially the 'Wood Gnomes' at Ash Lock for their contribution to our income, Paul Sanders and Mike Burns for leading the circular walks programme, all our fellow community groups, our corporate partners, and once more to Kebur for their sponsorship. Finally, she thanked our members for their support, and the all past and present Trustees and management team for their hard work. - There being no further business MF thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm. 	

Signed:

Mary Ferriss, Chair
13th February 2020