

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST – SOUTH NOTTS LOCAL GROUP

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at the West Bridgford Methodist Church, Musters Road, West Bridgford, 7.30pm

There were 33 persons present.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Valerie Holt, Graham Leigh-Browne

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013

The Minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record; proposed Judith Booth, seconded Pauline Cooke

### 3. Chairman's Report

- SNG has again run a comprehensive programme of walks and talks, visits to Summer Fetes with our nature table, and events including Go Wild in the Park, Ruddington Spring Fair and a Pub Quiz.
- Member contact by regular email update will be encouraged with reduced input into the local group newsletter, however this would necessitate improvement on the current 50% uptake. The SNG web site will eventually migrate into the Trust's main site.
- Dennis Heffernan is sadly missed. Dennis played an important role in revitalising SNG in the late 1990's and in its continued success, organising the talks programme for many years and stressing the importance of getting people involved. His contribution to the Trust is being recognised by the naming of a hide at Attenborough (a site he was deeply involved with), but locally SNG are also looking at ways of commemorating his enormous contribution.
- The committee will also greatly miss the expert services of John Rowley, web and newsletter editor, who has recently moved to Cornwall. We extend our thanks to John for his contributions over the years.
- The Skylarks appeal was one of the Trust's most successful ever, and will ensure much of the planned re-configuration of the site. Such local support also helps NWT attract further funding as it provides both matched funding and evidence of local support for the scheme.
- Radcliffe on Trent PC purchased the Lily Ponds and took on Dewberry Hill SINC, and Gotham Nature Trust now has a firmly established work programme. Most local work parties receive a reasonable level of support.
- With funding from RBC the Notts Biodiversity Action Group have run a number of Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping workshops for the western half of the borough looking at possibilities to enhance nature conservation in the next 10-50 years. Hopefully this will provide a platform for development of further initiatives in Rushcliffe in the coming decade.
- Unfortunately we still see potential threats with the return of pressure for housing development, pressure to reduce existing mitigation and a continued low scale loss of hedgerows.
- Coming up this year we continue to run our normal programme of walks, talks and summer fete visits, and the Spring Fair. Skylarks should reach the engineering phase of its development and SNG/NWT is exploring funding some habitat work at Wilwell and Wilford Claypits, and participating in a multi local group bid for display equipment.

**Gordon Dyne - Chair – South Notts Local Group (NWT)**

### 4. Treasurer's Report

Accounts were presented at the meeting. Balance at bank £866.

**Neil Pinder - Treasurer**

The accounts and report were accepted by the meeting.

### 5. Election of Officers and Committee

The Chairman encouraged anyone interested in joining to attend a committee meeting and proposed the committee be elected en bloc

Chairman: Gordon Dyne

Vice Chairman: Valerie Holt

Secretary: Jackie Glenn

Treasurer: Neil Pinder

Committee: Judith Booth, Graham Leigh-Browne, Geoff Fyles, Neil Glenn, Cally Keetley, Margie Richards

All were in favour. The Chairman reported an expression of interest from Marion Heffernan. Bill Logan is the NWT Trustee contact.

### 6. Future events

The NWT What's On Guide and the website list all South Notts events. The Chairman highlighted several upcoming events, including the official naming ceremony for Margaret's Meadow, and an open day at Fairham Brook ahead of a planning application for works

### 7. Any other business

- a) Pauline Cooke informed the meeting of a £20K legacy by Geoff Baker for the Skylarks appeal. NWT will consider the possibility of a lasting memorial.
- b) Ruth Testa thanked SNG for raising funds for Skylarks through hosting the Pub Quiz. 'Aye up me duck' mugs were available for purchase to raise further funds.

The AGM was followed by a very interesting talk on Skylarks given by Ruth Testa. The committee records its thanks to Ruth.