



Friends of Dubwath Silver Meadows

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PATRON: *Lord Inglewood*

MINUTES OF THE 10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held via Zoom on Wednesday, 10th March 2021, 7.00 p.m.

The meeting was attended by 46 members.
Apologies were received from 3 members.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th June 2019

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 Chairman.

2. Matters Arising To be covered below.

3. Treasurer's Report and Comments

Previously circulated. Alastair thanked members for their contributions throughout the year and thanked Terry for installing a collection box on site - this has proved a very useful source of income. He mentioned that bird food was a major expense and the cost needs to be monitored, but on the whole our funds are in a healthy state. As far as the current website is concerned, this is paid for every two years and is cheaper than the old one.

4. Chairman's Report

As the report had been previously circulated this was not read out at the meeting. Rick wished to record the committee's sadness at the death of our committee member Barry Evans in October last year. He reiterated his thanks to the committee for their unfailing support, and to Alastair for his work on the website and as Treasurer. Should anyone wish to take over responsibility for running the website your committee would be most grateful! Terry and David have recently repaired the front wall of the Norse shelter and made good some of the damage done by people wanting to write their names on the inside of the roof(!) – many thanks for this.

A big thank you to those who give a regular donation or pay yearly subs by standing order. This is much appreciated. We have had a good response to the recent request for subs and again thank you to those of you who have paid. However, we have an extensive list of "Friends" on our database (120 to date) but comparatively few are up to date with subs. It would be helpful to establish who is actually interested in remaining a "Friend" and the secretary will endeavour to resolve this over the coming weeks, so that the database can be a more accurate reflection of our supporters.

The Chairman then stood down.

5. Election of Officers

The current committee had agreed to put themselves forward for re-election for 2021/22. Alastair asked for a proposal for Chairman. Jack Abernethy proposed Rick Petecki, seconded by Terry Peate, and this was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The following members of the Committee were re-elected for a further year:

Chairperson	Rick Petecki	Bird Feeding:	Gordon Pickering
Treasurer/Website Officer	Alastair Yates	Maintenance:	Terry Peate/David Thomason
Ecology/Habitat Advisor	Joan Ingrams	Committee Member:	Elaine Edwards
Health & Safety Officer	Mike Bradley	Secretary	Barbara Petecka

Simon Parums, having kindly volunteered to join the committee, was proposed and unanimously elected.

6. Maintenance Plan/Celtic Shelter

Terry and David reported on the Celtic shelter, which was dismantled last year. Plans for rebuilding had to be suspended due to the Covid pandemic but it is hoped that rebuilding will commence shortly, with the shelter being moved slightly to the right. The first step will be to insert uprights. It had been hoped to obtain these from the Forestry Commission, who have always been very helpful to DSM, but as there is no firm date for this Rick will place an order with a Carlisle woodyard in order to speed things up. Strong volunteers will then be needed to lift the roof back on, after which it will need returfing and the wattle and daub walls reinstating.

7. Future Events

There should be plenty opportunities for volunteer work on the site this year (see above). We are hoping to organise a Dawn Chorus and plant walks (subject to Covid regulations). Peter Macqueen extended an invitation to join him in his moth counting when circumstances allow. Further information on all the events to follow.

8. Any other Business

Litter/graffiti

Many thanks to Di Parums for her recent singlehanded litter picks. Concern was expressed that recently the Norse Shelter has become somewhat disfigured by people using the black marker pen, meant for recording sightings, to scribble all over the inside of the shelter. Terry has volunteered to paint the uprights inside black in order to discourage this.

Gates

Rick has spoken with the tenant farmer re the internal gates. Originally the plan was to have grazing cattle on the reserve and the gates would have been used to control their movements. However, this is no longer happening and the gates are redundant. They no longer need to be kept closed and will be removed as they fall into disrepair. The gates controlling the integrity of the meadow, where the sheep graze, will need to be kept closed and are the tenant farmer's responsibility.

Boardwalk

The boardwalk has held up extremely well considering the conditions it has to cope with but some parts need straightening and supporting. Rick has made some initial enquiries and will get a quote for this work. He does not envisage any problem in raising money from local organisations for a small capital project such as this.

Queries/Suggestions

If any "Friends" out there have any questions or suggestions for the committee please don't hesitate to contact Barbara, the secretary, on dubwathsilvermeadows@gmail.com or 01768 776026. We are always pleased to hear from you.