

Friends of Lavell's Lake AGM

Charity Number: 297074

Dinton Pastures MAC on Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7.30 pm

Present: Fraser Cottington (Chairman), Peter Scudamore (Treasurer), Jane Campbell (Secretary), Ron Bryant, Ray Reedman, Alan Rymer, Brian Bennett, Renton Righelato, Les Blundell, Simon Bartlam and 26 other members.

Apologies for absence were received from Emma Hale, Tim James, Gray Burfoot, John Cole, Roger Stansfield and Richard Sadjak.

The approval of the minutes from the last AGM was proposed by Ron Bryant and seconded by Ian Paine.

2012 Reports

- **Chairman's Report:** This was sent to all members of the group in advance of the meeting and is available on the website.
 - Fraser announced he will be standing down as Chairman after 2013.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Copies were provided and Peter highlighted the main points which were:
 - Income from annual subscriptions has increased as have bird-food donations. General donations have decreased.
 - Expenditure on bird-food and feeders was high
 - A boat and camera were purchased
 - Income exceeded expenditure by £1,358.18 and the current balance for the group is £13,001.31
 - The gift-aid submission is outstanding

The acceptance of the report was proposed by Renton Righelato and seconded by Les Blundell.

- **Countryside Service Report:** Simon Bartlam's report was sent out to all members of the group. Simon commented that from his perspective all had gone well but some planned work could not be finished because of recurrent flooding.

Fraser thanked Simon for his hard work, commitment and tenacity and this was echoed by the rest of the group.

Election of Officers

Chairman: Fraser Cottington

Proposer: Ray Reedman, seconded by: Brian Bennett

Treasurer: Peter Scudamore

Proposer: Alan Rymer, seconded by: Ray Reedman

Secretary: Jane Campbell

Proposer: Fraser Cottington, seconded by: Ron Bryant

Membership Secretary: Les Blundell

Proposer: Ian Paine, seconded by Peter Scudamore

Other committee members:

Proposed by Fraser Cottington and seconded by Jane Campbell

Ron Bryant, Brian Bennett, Alan Rymer, Ray Reedman, Renton Righelato

Subscription Rates: As costs have risen significantly (e.g. food, website), it was proposed that membership fees be increased from £5.00 to £7.50 for individual membership and from £7.50 - £10.00 for family

membership. The changes were proposed by Fraser Cottington and seconded by Bob Bennett. There were no objections.

Changes to Constitution: The proposed amendments were discussed and the following points raised:

- No new life-memberships will be granted. Current life-memberships will be honoured.
- Corporate membership will be supported as necessary.
- The subscription year will start on January 1st.
- Officers and members of the committee will be appointed for three years with one-third retiring each year.
- Quorum changes from 1/10 to 1/25
- Annual statement of accounts will be prepared for December 31st

It was noted that most of the proposed changes will greatly simplify the administration of the group.

Fraser reported that an upgrade to the next tier of subscription with PayPal will allow the group to manage the changes and payments.

The changes were proposed by Les Blundell and seconded by Brain Bennett, there were no objections so were passed.

AOB

- The code of conduct for Ron's Hide must be used. Unfortunately the hide is still regularly found to be unlocked. Members commented the locks are difficult to use and read. Ron proposed the group purchase better locks and this was agreed.
- The new access code was published. Members were reminded to record it.
- Although Fraser will stand down as chairman at the end of 2013 he assured the group that he will still be heavily involved as bird recorder, will take a lead in conservation projects, work parties and bird walks.
- Conservation projects to be progressed include Tern Meadow & Lea Farm SW Corner Islets for 2013, the Loddon footpath upgrade and establishing the Sandford Farm Nature Reserve.
- Website – Fraser would like to develop this and in particular use links to social media and include his records that date back to 1979.
- Website – The FOLL website could do with a redesign to refresh it and also to add new features including a members' area, bird sighting database, information about other wildlife and a photo gallery. If any member has the skills and time available to volunteer to carry out such a redesign could they contact either the committee or Emma Haile.
- The £1 fee for bird walks will be collected this year.
- MAC issues include late gate opening is still causing dog walker pressure, dogs are being allowed to run on the beach and BSL island destruction .
- DCPS issues: It was noted once again that "Dogs on Leads" signage is contradictory. Dog fouling is a problem.
- Car park concessions – group members were asked to request this, power in numbers!
- Unfortunately hide abuse continues with graffiti and vandalism regularly occurring. There has been some patrolling by police but more is required.

- Proposed development/Bailey Bridge: Fraser voiced his concerns that there must be recognition that the area needs conserving for nature and measures taken to protect it before residents move in.
- The group should plan for rare bird visitor management - parking will be a challenge and we should not lose the opportunity to raise funds. A request for volunteers to be called on in such an event will be made.
- Twitter/Text service – Fraser can no longer run the text service, any volunteers willing to do so please contact him. The twitter service is simpler and quicker to manage and anyone wishing to join should contact Fraser.
- Fraser thanked Renton for agreeing to provide a talk in John Cole's absence.

Brain Bennett proposed a huge thanks to Fraser for his commitment to the group, enthusiasm and hard work; this was supported by everyone present.

The AGM finished at 8.30 and was followed by a very informative talk by Renton Righelato on the new Birds of Berkshire Atlas.