

Coppett Hill Common Trust Ltd

Oldfields, Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 6JG

Minutes of the General Meeting 22nd November 2017 Goodrich Village Hall

Agenda Ref:	Agenda Item	Action
	<p>Present and apologies for absence The meeting directly followed the AGM</p>	
1.	<p>Chairman's Report MR welcomed everyone and thanked his fellow directors and the company officers for all their work and support over the last year. One of the highpoints of the year had been receiving the AONB farming award, and how the judges had been impressed with the organisation and work done on Coppett Hill. The award had been presented to the Presidents at the Monmouth Show. Members of the AONB (two minibuses) had recently visited Coppett Hill and had been suitably impressed. The phone box had been renovated and thanks were due to M Howell, J Jordan and C Chamberlain. The box is now being used as an information centre for the Hill. A recent talk on Adders had been a great success and had attracted about eighty people from near and far. Maybe similar presentations could become a regular annual feature. The Trust had purchased a linkbox which could be attached to the tractor and would be useful for transporting tools to where needed on the Hill.</p>	
2.	<p>Natural History Report W Innes reported that it had been a better year for butterflies compared to last year which had been particularly bad. The general decline was nationwide and due to factors beyond our control. However, the Pearl Bordered Fritillaries were still there, as were the Silver Washed. The Marbled Whites had declined, but this had also occurred seven years ago and then had recovered. Dormice: probably still some around but not in large numbers. Only one or two recorded by Hazel Pickering. Reptiles: Mary Rowberry all four species still present – and the lizards had done well this year. R Thomas reported on birds in the Rocklands Wood area. Six out of twelve boxes had been used. 38 Blue and Great Tits had fledged successfully by October. No Nuthatches had used the boxes this year. G Woodward and J Jordan had checked the nest boxes from the Folly to the Limekilns. Some 26 boxes had evidence of old nests earlier in the year. On 16th April box 4 had 6 Blue Tit eggs, box 13 had Great Tit eggs. On 29th April box 1 had Blue Tit, box 2 was empty and box 3 had Great Tit. (Egg numbers not counted for fear of disturbing nest – noted that the Tits covered their eggs when leaving nest.) Cold weather in late April had killed many chicks. Noted that some boxes were located too high to be checked easily.</p>	

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P Newman (Herefordshire County Council appointed)

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3.	<p>Working Parties All objectives had been achieved, with a very good turnout of volunteers for each working party The last work party with Hereford Wildlife Trust had cleared the area around the Limekiln, leaving an area uncut as a control plot. The next Work Party is on Saturday 25th November, meeting at the Quarry at 10.00am. General maintenance and branch cutting. February 10th 2018 (Saturday): joint work party with Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and W Midlands Butterfly Conservation.</p>	
4.	<p>A.O.B John Edwards was concerned that there was no current facility for those not qualifying as shareholders to be kept informed of the ongoing work of the Trust. He suggested that the Trust consider associate and junior members. Whereas the Friends of Coppett Hill were indeed ‘friendly’, he observed that they had not been very active of late, but felt that some provision should be made for people who had moved away but still had a real interest in Coppett Hill. Pointed out by GW and others that the role of the Friends should encompass what JE suggested, as The Friends were set up to harness outside interest and support The Trust. CC would endeavour to keep the website updated, and to include recent news and events, including minutes of Trust and Management meetings so that everyone would know what was going on. Also details of work parties (in case information was not getting passed on.) CC believed that the Directors of the Trust were always very approachable and PC suggested that the Trust was always open to new ideas and suggestions – indeed the regular Management Meetings were open to anyone who wished to pursue ideas, etc. JE was concerned that the Friends had not made any financial contribution to the Trust in the last year (previously they had made a generous contribution to aid the purchase of the tractor and mower) and that their AGM was overdue. It was agreed that a meeting with the Trustees of the Friends was needed and possibly identify some mutually beneficial projects. It was hoped that this would take place shortly and that the Friends would soon be active again. The value of the Friends was greatly appreciated. I Corker suggested that the Trust and the Friends seek to improve public awareness of the Trust and Friends. CC agreed that the website needed updating and be made accessible. Also, increased Goodrich school involvement would be useful, perhaps with some presentations for them eg Adder Talk. The Forest School aspect had seen school groups going on the Hill. D Leat mentioned that Pine Martens may be introduced into the Forest of Dean, and may find themselves spreading to Coppett Hill. Some concern was expressed as to the desirability of this since Pine Martens have been known to destroy aspects of properties eg wiring.</p>	

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<p>M Howells suggested that his next project might be to renovate the 'Waste not Want Not' well. The water had been tested in the past and found to be tainted, however RT suggested that improved sewage arrangements may have changed things.</p> <p>Wild Boar: GW reported that although they tend to come and go on the Hill, 3 or 4 had been sighted recently in the Woodbine and Ferry Cottage areas. Courtfield had seen some and 4 had been shot near Huntsham. Pointed out that the more they were hunted, the more they became nocturnal.</p> <p>Muntjac were becoming more common, and also Otters had been spotted on the river.</p>	
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Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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