

Monmouthshire Meadows Group

Registered Charity no 111345

Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30th April 2019, at 7pm

Llanishen Village Hall, Llanishen

Present:

Chairperson: Stephanie Tyler

Committee members: Marilyn Dunkelman, Rachel Morgan, Sheelagh Kerry, Judith Carruthers, Sarah Cheese, Dick Coates, Pam Mansfield, Clare Adamson, Carol Cook and approximately 50 members and guests.

1: The chairperson welcomed everyone including speaker Elsa Wood and Parish Grassland Project and Dean Meadows Group.

2: **Apologies for absence:** Rose & Glyn Parkhouse, Sue Parkinson, Pam & Peter Lloyd, Lynn Williams, Steph & Alan Poulter, David Llewellyn, Ray and Beccy Armstrong

3: **Minutes of the 2018 AGM:** no matters arising

4: Chairperson's report:

Members and surveys:

Elsa, Steph and Sheelagh have carried out surveying for new members, providing advice and management plans.

24 new member's sites have been surveyed. The surveys included revisits to 5 sites where improved diversity was noted. Some of these sites are of Wildlife Site quality.

Open Days:

Details are in the recent newsletter and include Blaentrophy, Wet Meadow, New Grove Meadow and Ida's Meadow. MMG is attending several events including Monmouthshire Bee Festival-which drew 8 new members last year-Chepstow Festival and Usk Show.

Work Tasks:

The MMG machinery has been used in member's gardens and at Wet Meadow. The Wet Meadow project in partnership with Gwent Wildlife Trust, the Long Forest Project and Keep Wales Tidy. Special thanks to Dick Coates for masterminding works undertaken, and minding the sheep which have now gone.

Thanks:

To Roger Ruston who has reported good populations of long-horned and solitary bees at Kingcoed Meadow.

To Steph and Alan Poulter for caring for MMG ponies

To Marilyn Dunkelman for tremendous job on revamping MMG website and producing newsletters.

Mention that MMG featured in Landscape Magazine issue on orchids

5: Treasurer's report: Rachel Morgan provided the report in David Llewellyn's absence, accounts attached. Thanks to legacies the MMG accounts are in a healthy position. MMG bought entitlements for grant eligibility from Rural Payments Wales, which have resulted in a good return.

The Grassland Fungi field guide book continues to provide good income and some of MMG money is restricted funds specifically for costs associated with the book.

There is also expenditure to come on Wet Meadows project.

Balance as at 31 March 2019 was £39,303.70.

6: Election of officers and committee:

Chairperson:

Steph Tyler is standing down as chairperson and will be replaced by Rachel Morgan-proposed by Steph Tyler and seconded by Dick Coates. She will remain on the Committee.

Secretary:

Sheelagh Kerry standing down and will be replaced by Carol Cook-proposed Clare Adamson and seconded by Rachel Morgan. She will remain on the Committee.

Membership Secretary:

Cecilia Davies standing down and will be replaced by Marilyn Dunkelman.

The remainder of the committee were re-elected-

Treasurer-David Llewellyn

Newsletter and Website editor: Marilyn Dunkelman

Publicity officer: Clare Adamson

Pony Officer: Stephanie Poulter

Wet Meadows Officer: Dick Coates

Pam Mansfield, Judith Carruthers and Sarah Cheese

Proposed by Stella Collard and seconded by Jon Dunkelman and carried unanimously.

7: Proposed MMG conversion to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

As per details in newsletter this is a relatively new type of charitable structure that allows an organisation to become a corporate body, giving the trustees 'limited liability' without having to become a limited company. Rachel Morgan advised that this route was currently being explored by MMG and further details would be provided in due course. Those present were given the opportunity to raise any questions and confirm they were happy for MMG to pursue CIO status, no objections raised.

8: AOB:

A vote of thanks was proposed by David Richards for Steph's role as chair of MMG. A gift and card was presented by the Committee and Steph was made Honorary President of MMG, Poppy enthusiastically agreed with this!

A request was made for volunteers to help at Open Days and shows. A wonderfully informative talk was presented by Elsa Wood and supper enjoyed afterwards, with thanks to Judith and team for organising the food.