

South Yare Wildlife Group

Agenda - Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm, Wednesday 20th May, virtual meeting via Zoom

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM

- see Appendix 1

3. Annual report - Update of South Yare Wildlife Group activities – Dan Hoare (Chair)

- see Appendix 2

4. Finance report - Calendar year 2019 - David Hamblin (Treasurer)

- see Appendix 3

5. Election of Committee – May 2020 to April 2021

- **Current committee members and roles**

Dan Hoare (Chair)

Kevin Parker (vice chair) – stepping down May 2020

Christine Popplewell

David Hamblin (Treasurer)

Kaarin Wall – stepping down May 2020

Reg Land

Rodney Aldis

Peter Armitage

Anna Gamble (Membership secretary)

Tom Waterfall

6. Any Other Business

Appendix 1

South Yare Wildlife Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, Wednesday 10 April 2019, Claxton Village Hall

1. Apologies

Committee members - David Hamblin, Anna Gamble.

43 people attended.

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

Accepted as a true record. Proposed by Roland Kaye. Seconded by Mike Balmer.

3. Chairman's Annual Report. Dan Hoare

3.1 Update of South Yare Wildlife Group activities:

The SYWG website has been enhanced and includes upcoming events for 2019, a regular blog and more social media posts and interaction. Kaarin Wall was thanked for her excellent posters and Anna Gamble for social media support.

The Wild Patch Project has progressed including the SYWG's own Wild Patch which has been developed at the Rockland St Mary allotments. Recent developments include installation of a gate, steps and a sign. There is close working with other groups to promote B- Lines.

A programme of events, walks and talks has been sustained throughout the year.

Practical work has continued at Ducan's Marsh SSSI. An orchid count in June 2016 identified a total of 1961 orchids in an approximately 20m x 150m area. It is now estimated that there are some 5,000 across the whole site. The majority consisted of two species – Common Spotted and Southern Marsh along with hybrids and small number (3 or 4 plants) of Early Marsh Orchid. Over 80 Common Twayblade were identified. Grass of Parnassus was found in the western area. Monitoring of the site and species recording by Natural England has lead it now to be recognised as one of the best examples of this type of side valley fen in the UK.

3.2 Financial Report. David Hamblin

The Chairman presented the report from David Hamblin and noted that the lump sum received from The Water, Mills and Marshes was received in 2019 in arrears for activities in 2018. Members were thanked for renewing their membership and encouraged to do this by standing order. The importance of membership subscriptions as a source of income for the group was emphasised.

A member asked whether it was possible to gift aid membership. It was explained that this had been looked into in some detail, but it was not possible, because members' subscriptions confer benefits in the form of discounted admissions to some events and activities. These can potentially be worth more than the annual subscription.

Roland Kaye was thanked for acting as Independent Examiner and David Hamblin for fulfilling the Treasurer's role. Mike Balmer pointed out that the date on the accounts proforma needs to be updated. He then proposed adoption of the accounts. This was seconded by Rodney Aldis.

3.3 Membership report. Kaarin Wall

Currently 85 members, with 53 paying by standing order. Kaarin was thanked for fulfilling the role of membership secretary.

3.4 Now and Again Group. Chris Popplewell

Volunteers were thanked for helping out throughout the year. Particularly Angela Parkin for putting up the posters, and organising refreshments at the events. Anyone who would like to be included in the group should contact Chris. There are specific needs for volunteers for the 3rd June event at Thorpe Marshes, the Moths event on 28th of July. Brooke churchyard group are seeking help with a wild patch event in June and volunteers would also be welcome at the Poringland Fete B-Line stall on the 13th of July.

3.5 Young Explorers. Rose Hoare

In the last 12 months young people have been engaged in conservation work at Ducan's Marsh, Rockland Allotments, Blackwater Carr, Bergh Apton Conservation Trust and the Hellington and Rockland Reserve. There are spaces for a few more 7-11 year olds for the summer term.

4. Election of Committee April 2019 to April 2020

At the end of the year, Kaarin Wall and Kevin Parker will be stepping back from the committee. Kaarin will continue to produce posters and other publicity material and Kev will be involved in practical work at Ducan's Marsh. They were thanked for the huge contribution they have made to the work of the group.

Tom Waterfall has been co-opted onto the committee and for the past 6 months has been contracted to help manage the website.

The existing Committee members all stood for re-election en bloc. Proposed by Brenda Packman, seconded by Roland Kaye.

These are: Dan Hoare (Chairman) David Hamblin (Treasurer) Kevin Parker, Kaarin Wall, Chris Popplewell, Reg Land, Peter Armitage, Rodney Aldis, Anna Gamble, Tom Waterfall.

The Committee is seeking additional members. It will shortly be reviewing roles and responsibilities. There are vacancies for the roles of Secretary and Membership secretary.

5. Any Other Business

Peter Armitage reminded members of the need to book in advance for Breakfast with the Birds on the 12 May.

There was a break and a consultation exercise seeking feedback on recent events and activities.

The AGM was followed by an interactive event facilitated by Simon Hooton, Broads Authority. "The Broads Past, Present and Future – conversations and stories".

Appendix 2

Annual report - Update of South Yare Wildlife Group activities

1. Membership

For the period January 2019 to January 2020 the total number of members was 82 + 2 children (free). Of those, 66 were paying by standing order which is a very encouraging proportion. This assists greatly with keeping the time spent on membership co-ordination to a manageable level.

Since January 2020 to date, a comparison with the same period last year shows that the number of standing orders was roughly similar, but renewals by cash and cheque payments are well down due to the lack of meetings/events where people would normally be prompted to renew. Given the COVID-19 circumstances this is only to be expected. A review of this impact on membership number will be reviewed in the autumn.

2. Events

All the talks in 2019 were very well attended by a mix of members and non-members. The diversity of event topics has drawn in many non-members and new members which is encouraging. Each event has had a subsequent write up posted as a blog on the SYWG website and shared by social media. Thank you to all the speakers, event organisers and those who have volunteered their time to make these occasions enjoyable and interesting.

There were two open meetings with participation by a range of members who attended. Discussions focused on future ideas for events and a climate change debate. Both enabled members not on the committee to engage in discussion and contribute towards setting the direction and future activities of the group. The format seemed to work and mutual opinion was that such meetings should be repeated.

Given the COVID-19 restrictions, all public events since late March have had to be cancelled. We are hoping to simply defer some of these until lockdown restrictions make it possible to hold such events safely. However, we have no idea when this may be, so please keep an eye out for the update emails with new dates. Outdoor events possibly offer a means of gathering with slightly less risk of spreading any infection. Either way, with COVID-19 likely to be a feature of life for quite a while, we shall need to seek alternative ways to be able to share, learn and enjoy our local wildlife together.

3. Wild Patch activities

SYWG provided funding for Wild Patch development to support the Chet B-Line project being led by Bergh Apton Conservation Trust. The SYWG funding was targeted at community groups with land within a loose boundary along the course of the River Chet. Three successful applications were made, with projects completed in Loddon and Chedgrave.

Young Explorers have been active at Rockland St Mary playing field. Through a partnership project with Rockland St Mary Parish Council an area of previously mown grass was seeded with a wildflower mix and has been left to become a Wild Patch.

Rodney Aldis' "Don't Mow" wooden game, built by Poringland Men's Shed, has been used at different events to promote importance of insect pollinators and protection of their food sources.

4. Committee roles

As with all voluntary groups, the people involved tend to input the level of effort they are motivated to, can afford to with other life commitments, and often in proportion to what they get out of the experience. With that in mind, Kaarin Wall and Kevin Parker must be possibly the most driven, generous and fulfilled pair of SYWG members to date. I say this now as Kevin and Kaarin are stepping back from active committee roles. Since the inception of SYWG, both have motivated others and added their enthusiasm in spades. Thank you both for all your hard work and commitment to the group. We all hope to see you soon at the next event, or when passing your wonderful garden!

Dan Hoare (Chair) 15/4/20

Appendix 3

Treasurer's Report Year to 31st December 2019

Another successful year for the group and our cash in hand and at bank had a total opening balance of 5219.11 on Jan 1st 2019 closing at 3779.35 Dec 31st 2019.

Total income for the year was £1861.70 made up of subscriptions £870, walks & talks £831.70 and donations of £120.00. Total expenditure was £3056.46, made up of walks & talks £705.55 print & post £23.36, website £275.50, insurance £138.32, donations £200.00 and Wildpatch 1300.74.

The events arranged throughout the year were generally well attended. Membership was slightly down from 2018 and stands at 77.

Retention of members giving a stable base is a useful indicator of popularity of the group's activities and members are encouraged to sign a Standing Order for their annual subscription which greatly helps us.

The introduction of internet banking in 2017 continues to be a success and I now mainly use the excellent Post Office services at Rockland St Mary, Loddon and Bergh Apton/Hellington to bank cash & cheques. I am grateful to Roland Kaye who has once again examined and signed off this year's accounts.

The group remains in a good position to put on a wide range of events throughout the year, to utilise the website to promote its activities and to commission and carry out projects including maintenance and improvement of the SSSI at Ducan's Marsh, Claxton and the State of The Natural Environment Report.

There was significant expenditure this year in setting up the allotment at Rockland St Mary as a wildpatch site. This was a one off and otherwise income & expenditure remain in approximate balance. The accounts do not show the benefit of the Broads Authority Grant which will come through in 2020 accounts.

The Group may have to consider only taking card payments in future and will continue to encourage all members to use internet bank to pay their memberships.

I am grateful for the support of all colleagues on the committee and am happy to take any questions on the accounts.

David Hamblin (Treasurer) 14/05/2020

South Yare Wildlife Group

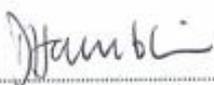
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

83 members 2019

2018 for comparison

| Detail | Opening balances & income | Closing balances & expenses | Opening balances & income | Closing balances & expenses |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Opening cash | 210.96 | | 205.95 | |
| Opening bank | 5008.15 | | 5361.45 | |
| Membership subscriptions 2019 | 870.00 | | 1150.00 | |
| Membership subscriptions 2019 paid before 31/12/18 | | 40.00 | | 270.00 |
| External Funding (Broads Authority) | 0.00 | | 0.00 | |
| Income from walks and talks | 831.70 | | 732.60 | |
| Donation for equipment hire | 0.00 | | 1.00 | |
| General Donations | 120.00 | | 151.50 | |
| Expenditure re walks and talks | | 705.55 | | 815.15 |
| Workdays | | 412.99 | | 0.00 |
| Donations | | 200.00 | | 441.00 |
| Insurance | | 138.32 | | 296.32 |
| Wild Patch | | 1300.74 | | 359.68 |
| Website | | 275.50 | | 281.80 |
| Printing and postage | | 23.36 | | 64.94 |
| Cheques paid not cashed | | 105.50 | 105.50 | |
| Membership subscriptions 2020 paid 2019 | 40.00 | | 40.00 | |
| Closing cash | | 100.00 | | 210.96 |
| Closing bank | | 3779.35 | | 5008.15 |
| | 7080.81 | 7081.31 | 7748.00 | 7748.00 |

I have prepared these accounts from the financial records of South Yare Wildlife Group and confirm they represent an accurate summary of the income and expenditure in the year and of the assets and liabilities at 31st December 2019

Signed 
D. Hamblin (Treasurer)

Date 4/5/2020

Signed 
(Independent Examiner)

Date 4/5/2020