



# Milford Conservation Volunteers



<https://www.milfordconservation.org>

## Minutes of the MCV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### 31st MARCH 2021 (held on Zoom)

The meeting opened with a slide show of local wildlife and birds presented and photographed by MCV member Richard Coomber

#### The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 9th MCV AGM

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mary Wheatley, Graham Rogers and Gordon Miller
2. **Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting 15th March 2019:-**

No AGM took place in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions.

The 2019 minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

#### ***Do you approve the minutes for MCV's AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019?***

Proposer: Tani Read

Secunder: - Joyce Carter **Agreed (32 Yes, 0 No )**

3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

#### 4. **Chairman's Report:-**

- i) The presentation of the Queens Award has not been able to take place due to Covid 19 restrictions. The Buckingham Palace Garden Party was cancelled but it is hoped that the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire will still make the presentation when it becomes possible.
- ii) Thanks were expressed to both the Committee and the membership for their commitment and work for the MCV. In particular Tony Locke and Anne Jenks were mentioned and although they have stepped down from the Committee they continue to be actively supportive. Others who have stepped down recently are Lorraine Mabbett, Martin Gretton and David Burch, all of whom can be seen working for MCV.
- iii) This year MCV have received generous donations from 3 sources: £1000 from the Community Action Grant, 200 Euro from a local resident whose company gave their staff the money to be spent on worthwhile projects. Also £150 was received from the proceeds of the sales of the book "The Natural History of Milford-on-Sea" recently published by Keith Metcalf.
- iv) Finally, the Chairman looked forward to better times in the coming months when conservation work could safely resume and the Bird Hide and Observatory could be put to full use. He noted that the viewing platform would be open at the Observatory had re-opened on 29<sup>th</sup> March for groups of up to six people.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the Annual Accounts for 2019 and 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**2019 Accounts:** Both income and expenditure were very similar to 2018.

A number of projects had been identified for expenditure but only the Community Meadow by the Church took any serious funds: £2.5k

**2020 Accounts:** Income was seriously down, however subscriptions income remained level. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions no social events took place, Bird hide donations and log sales were down and marsh trips were not possible. However expenditure matched income with some small projects possible and a donation of £1200 was made to the White Tailed Eagle project. This was generated from the film shows held in early 2019.

£17k has been anticipated for the budget for 2021/22 for projects and contingencies, still leaving the accounts in a very strong financial position. Membership remains strong with over 70% of members renewing, almost half using the new facility of internet banking.

There were no questions.

6. **Acceptance of Accounts:**

***Do you agree that the MCV's accounts for 2019 and 2020 should be accepted?***

Proposer: Eric Read      Seconder: Jenny Spencer **Agreed (34 YES, 0 NO)**

7. **Adoption of new Banking Practice.** In order to have a recorded acceptance of the introduction of Internet Banking by the membership a vote was deemed necessary. It was noted that access will be restricted and payment levels will be set at zero.

***Do you agree with the adoption of the new banking practice?***

Proposed: Jenny Spencer      Seconder: Jim Bunting **Agreed (36 Yes, 0 No)**

8. **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2019 and 2020:** - Tim Light

**Do you agree with the appointment of Tim Lightfoot of Lighter Touch as Examiner of MCV's accounts for 2021**

Proposer: Ian Ramus      Seconder: Martin Gretton **Agreed (36 Yes, 0 No)**

9. **Setting MCV Membership Fee for 2022.** The fee has remained steady for the last 4 years but the committee felt that it should remain at £7.50 in the present situation.

***Do you agree that the annual membership fee for 2022 should be set at £7.50?***

Proposer: Mike Collison      Seconder: Pam Poole **Agreed (36 Yes, 0 No)**

10. **Any Proposed changes to the MCV Constitution:** - No changes had been recommended by The Management Committee and none had been received from members.

## 11. Election of officers and committee members:

**Chairman:** David Horne: **Vice Chairman and Conservation Officer:** Keith Metcalf:

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:** David Cobbett. **Minutes Secretary:** Penny Ramus.

**Committee Members:** Mary Macmillan, Chris Barrass and Julie Hallows.

Members were asked to vote for the Committee en bloc.

***Do you agree with the election of the people whom you have just seen and whose names and roles are on your screen as Honorary Officers of MCV or members of the Management Committee?***

Proposer: David Burch    Seconder: Wendy Thomas    **Agreed (38 Yes, 0 No)**

## 12. Conservation Officer's Report:-

Keith had set up a slide show of photographs to give a quick whistle-stop review of the 2019/21 activities and some of the unusual animals and birds seen over the past year.

The first few slides showed what a special place the village of Milford on Sea is to live, but also in its rich habitats from the Woodlands of the Pleasure Ground, the Meadows, Studland Common to the Solent area with the Salt Marshes, Hurst Spit and Castle and the Keyhaven Nature Reserve.

Some tasks have been carried out such as the opening of the Old Milford Meadow and the improvement of footpaths in the Pleasure grounds, in conjunction with Graham Wells, Clerk to the Parish Council.

Logging featured in the slides showing the Old Mill whose owners have donated a huge quantity of wood to MCV which will be stored in the new log store that the PC have generously provided and part funded.

Scrub Bloc 6 had been successfully cleared before lockdown and one more area is awaiting a task force.

Graham Giddens has continued with bird ringing and is training a 14 year old girl who was the recipient of an MCV bursary enabling her to acquire bird ringing skills.

Slides of the birds seen recently at the Pans included the Avocet and Spoonbill which now are a regular at this site.

White-tailed Eagles from the Isle of Wight, where juvenile birds were released in 2019 & 2020, including G24 (named MEG after the founding group to MCV). More birds are expected to be released later in 2021.

Work has been carried out in conjunction with the Great Solent Bird Watch.

Chris Barras has managed to record some interesting species on the trail cameras including egrets, herons, kingfishers and at night a fox, badger, roe deer, otter and a polecat. A Pine-martin was also captured on film at a local private property.

The slides then showed other work achieved by the small task team such as the planting of the rowan tree copse, bird hide improvements and nesting boxes bought by the school using a £500 grant from MCV.

On a more thought provoking note we saw photos of Salt Grass Lane seriously flooded with the high tides, leaving the new notice boards stranded. Keith has done much work in keeping everyone fully aware of future plans that are being considered to protect the coastline, between the Spit and Lymington, by other agencies. He showed slides of the projected sea levels over the next 50-100 years.

In the light of Climate Change and associated rising sea levels difficult choices will have to be made with respect to the protection of the residents of Kehaven and Lymington and the future management of the saline lagoons and salt marshes of the adjacent nature reserve.

No Questions were raised.

### **13. Presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award:**

The previous recipient of this award, Ken Hoare, wished to thank the committee for presenting him with a replica of the award for him to keep.

No award was made in 2020 due to the restrictions of Covid-19.

The winner of the award for 2021 was Steve Mabbett, who was presented with the trophy by Lorraine, viewed by the meeting on Zoom, amid great excitement. Steve was thanked by the Chairman for his commitment to MCV, in particular to his contribution in leading the logging team along with Lorraine. It was clear that his charming personality and demeanour has been a great asset to MCV as has his ability with the chain saw!

Steve was surprised and delighted to receive the award and thanked the MCV for his nomination.

### **14. Any Other Business:**

a) Mike Collison thanked Keith Metcalf for his continued commitment to MCV adding that he has always been a great driving force in encouraging the Committee and Members.

b) Anne Jenks offered Congratulations to the committee for holding a very successful AGM on Zoom.

**The AGM was then closed at 19:45**

**Date of next AGM: March 2022**

After the break Keith Metcalf introduced the Speaker for the evening:

**Keith Betton -The State of Birds in Hampshire.**

At the end of Keith's fascinating and up to date talk Julie Hallows fielded questions which Keith Betton answered.

Keith Metcalf thanked Keith Betton for his very interesting talk and his continued support and encouragement for MCV.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:00hrs, having thanked the members for attending, and the team for putting a successful AGM together on Zoom.**