



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

MCV 11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

11th APRIL 2023

Milford on Sea Community Centre (The Bridge)

The meeting opened with a slide show prepared by Julie Hallows of wild-life photographs taken locally by various MCV members.

The Chairman, David Horne (DH), welcomed everyone to the 11th MCV AGM and thanked them for attending on such a windy, wet evening, remarking how pleasing it was to see so many members present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mary Macmillan, Martyn Osbourne, Joyce Carter, Mary Wheatley, Nick Pocock, Chris Thomas, Sue Lambert, Lorraine and Steve Mabbett.

There were 48 members in attendance which meant that it was quorum.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting on 19th March 2022**

Proposer: Penny Ramus Seconder: David Hodgson All agreed by a show of hands

DH signed them as a true record of the meeting.

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

4. **Chairman's report:**

David Horne stated that the MCV had suffered a mandatory break in their work during the Covid pandemic and for some time after that when volunteers were still nervous to meet in groups. Sadly, we lost some of our key workers around that time due to death and infirmity.

Logging work in the Pleasure Grounds was halted as new legislation required that the MCV must obtain a licence guaranteeing that the logs they sell were properly dried and "ready to burn". After the purchase of a water content monitor it took an inordinate length of time for the formal inspection and licence to be issued. Work had only recently been resumed delivering dry logs and storing more for full seasoning.

The Parish Office has now recruited a new member of staff who is able to work with MCV particularly on tasks in the Pleasure Grounds.

During Summer 2022 our Mary Macmillan and Catherine Chatters from Hampshire Wildlife Trust led many groups of volunteers clearing Himalayan balsam throughout the entire Danestream catchment.

Other volunteers have been involved in taking water samples for the Freshwater Habitats Trust checking for Phosphates and Nitrates from local watercourses.

A guest volunteer, Pam, has carried out Aquatic Invertebrate monitoring and a bat meter was purchased to help identify the presence and species of bats occurring locally.

DH thanked the Management Committee for their work and commitment. David Cobbett in particular for his work on the accounts, Julie Hallows for creating and managing a very professional website and Chris Barrass for his unstinting monitoring and outstanding photography of activities at the Keyhaven Observatory, together with his work with the children at the local school.

The MCV Youth Bursary was awarded this year to a class at the primary school. A bird box and associated solar powered camera were purchased for the children to be able to remotely view the nesting birds. Letters requesting the purchase and thank-you cards were on display.

Lorraine Mabbett led the logging and task teams and Penny Ramus kept the minutes at meetings. Thanks were expressed to all.

Many other activities have taken place including bat and butterfly surveys, Wildlife walks, and the loan of Trail Cameras to members to record night time wild-life activity in their gardens.

DH recalled to members about an exciting trip to Buckingham Palace for a garden party which took place in June 2022, when he and Keith Metcalf represented MCV in recognition of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service originally presented 2020.

Looking forward to 2023 MCV will be delivering log orders and cutting and storing more logs to fully season them. More guided walks are anticipated and it is hoped that members will come forward to lead walks which interest them.

Local bat expert Lisa will be helping with bat surveys and the Eco Church Council at All Saints has requested assistance in order to manage their land and buildings to benefit biodiversity. It is also hoped to work with the Gardening Club in the Old Meadow site to also encourage more wildlife there.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all the members for their continued support both from direct physical work and financially through subscriptions and donations.

5. Treasurer's Report: David Cobbett

Copies of the Annual Accounts for 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

2022 Accounts

I refer to the accounts for last year which you will have either seen in the AGM notification pack or in copies available here tonight.

The biggest thing to happen in 2022 was the changing of our bank. We had been at HSBC for some considerable time but the closing of the Lymington branch and the inability to grant us

internet access prompted us to look for another bank. Lloyds reopened access to their Treasurers Account and so we changed.

You will see that the miscellaneous columns in both Income and Expenditure were affected as we closed the Savings account at HSBC moving £1500 into our Current Account with Lloyds and then soon afterwards, opened a Savings account there with £10K. We only have to give 32 days' notice to remove the money.

You will note that overall Income was much better than the previous year and despite what you may have read in the local newspaper, our paid-up membership is increasing. We had no Special Donations or Grants but we did make a little at the AGM and Bird Hide donations increased substantially from appreciative visitors. There was also a rise in the uptake and renewal of Bird Observatory Key-fobs

Expenditure appears considerably more than Income, but that was due to the moving of money to the Savings Account. The largest spends were on a Survey Report on the Downton Quarry lakes, Trail Cameras, new decking at the Bird Observatory and a new MCV banner + display boards to promote our presence at events.

As usual we have anticipated our Income and Expenditure for the year and identified up to £17K for Projects and Contingencies, many of which might not take off this year but never the less we remain in a good financial position.

Membership: at the end of June, we implemented the Constitution in respect of the renewal of memberships. Many had not paid their subscriptions for a couple of years, possibly due to Covid. To that extent we removed just over 25% of the 2021 membership from our database, despite that, our overall membership was only reduced by 10%, as we had a significant number of new members and this trend is continuing as we have already had more people joining this year and it is gratifying to see some of them here tonight.

6. **Acceptance of Accounts:**

Proposer: Eric Read Seconder: David Hodgson All Agreed by a show of hands.

7 **Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2022 and 2023: - Tim Light**

Proposer: Julie Hallows Seconder: Tina Bourne All Agreed by a show of hands

8 **Setting MCV Membership Fee for 2024.** The fee has remained steady for the last 5 years but the committee felt that it should remain at £7.50 in the present economic squeeze.

Proposer: Andy Hallows Seconder: Keith Metcalf All Agreed by a show of hands

9. **Proposed changes to the MCV Constitution:** - No changes had been recommended by the Management Committee and none had been received from Members.

10 **Election of officers and Committee Members:**

Chairman and Conservation Officer: David Horne.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary: David Cobbett

Minutes Secretary: Penny Ramus.

Committee Members: Lorraine Mabbett, Chris Barrass and Julie Hallows.

New Members: Penny Gladman and Adrian Palmer.

All had been proposed and seconded prior to the meeting and were duly elected by a show of hands.

11 Presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award:

The winner of the award for 2022 was Mary Macmillan who unfortunately was unable to attend the presentation. Mary has worked tirelessly over many years having been the MCV Moth survey expert, taking her equipment to various sites including members' gardens. She has also played a large part in the removal of Himalayan Balsam from the Dane Stream catchment – a tough physical job at the best of times.

Mary has also been invaluable, using her legal skills, in helping MCV create and keep their constitution up to date and relevant. She also created a template for the AGMs which has been a great help.

12 Any Other Business: None

13 Date of next AGM March 2024

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.45, having thanked the members for attending and the Committee team for putting the AGM together.

After a 20-minute break Graham Giddens gave a wonderful insight into his work as a professional ornithologist and qualified bird-ringer. He shared the photographs he had compiled whilst carrying out survey work on behalf of the MCV at specific key sites within the Milford parish, namely Studland Common, Downton Quarry Lakes and the Keyhaven Pans.