

Minutes of DIGS Meeting, Tuesday 16th January 2018 **Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands Farm, Forston**

Present: Pete Bath, Andy Bradley, Jeremy Cranmer, Ian Hacker, Alan Holiday, Kelvin Huff, Charles Jackson, Geoff Pettifer, Paul Ramsden, Rhiannon Rogers, Geoff Rowland, Pat Snelgrove, Roger Snelgrove, Malcolm Wright.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Neil Fishlock, Jo Thomas, Giles Watts, Ruth and Martin Warden.
2. **Minutes** of last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.
 - a) Matters arising: Roger reported on contacting Anne Holloway regarding an information board for Rockpit Farm. Content and finances are being agreed to progress this long-running project.
3. **Financial update:** Rhiannon provided the following figures: the Nationwide account balance stands at £3356.29 and the Lloyds account balance stands at £834.65.
4. **Recent happenings:**
 - a) Conservation at **Westhill Chalk Pit** (21.11.17). A good session took place with a small group in dry conditions. An information board was proposed and Alan will discuss this with Pam White.
 - b) **Fleet Study Group** meeting (24.11.17). Alan attended but nothing of geological significance was discussed. Geoff R. enquired whether the new public access laws will make sites along the Fleet more accessible.
 - c) Visit to **Toller Fratrum** potential DIGS site (28.11.17). Following a site visit it was decided this location is not viable as DIGS site.
 - d) **Geology Trust** Meeting Gloucester (4.12.17). Alan's intention to attend was thwarted by a combination of vehicle and signage problems.
 - e) **Curry Fund** meeting (8.12.17). This session was conducted electronically as there was only 1 bid. The committee does have money available for valid geological projects.
 - f) Request for help from **Southhill Primary School** for geological input (12.12.17). Alan will be giving a talk on 28th. February. Geoff R. offered to provide some Jurassic Trust fossil boxes that Alan can use.
 - g) **Jurassic Coast Trust** launch at Eype. (13.12.17). Alan and Geoff R. attended. We await developments but funding is an issue.
 - h) The **DGAG AGM** took place on 13.1.18.

5. **Site condition spreadsheet.** Now this has been completed Paul will make it available to members by e-mail or by hosting it on the DIGS website.

6. **Ridgeway Project development: The way forward?**
Following a visit by Alan to Jo Thomas, Alan has information on the geology of the Ridgeway which can be incorporated into the DIGS website. Alan will circulate information on LGS within the Ridgeway to members for comment. Regarding Poxwell Quarry, Pat has been working up material for an information board. This could be located on a Portland Stone block close to the gate. Funding may be available from the Ridgeway Project or Curry Fund.

7. **Rodwell Cutting development.** Geoff P. circulated a paper on the site (filed with minutes). Alan and Geoff P. have now visited the site with Tara Williams of WPBC and explained its geological significance. Geoff P. has continued, with permission, to clear more vegetation. Once this initial phase of clearance has been completed, we envisage a full working party will attend. Further down the line, information boards are planned.

8. **Sites and conservation:**
 - a) **Red Lane.** An opportunity to achieve further clearance exists. Alan will contact Peter (local resident) to arrange a date and circulate members.
 - b) **Tarrant Rawston.** Alan will contact John Scott to check whether work is required at this site.
 - c) **Whitecliff.** Alan will contact Hilary for a site condition update.
 - d) **Vinney Cross.** Conservation session on 20th March.
 - e) **Spring Lane, Longburton.** Pete Bath will circulate a suitable date, once arranged. This may include a visit to the Sherborne Stone yard.
 - f) **Vallis Vale and Tedbury Camp.** Geoff R. and Andy will visit the site on 6th February to ensure the site is in a good condition for the OUGS fieldtrip on the 18th February.
 - g) **Wanderwell.** Roger has continued his programme of site clearance and will do further work before the end of March. Then in the summer, the exposure can be extended.

9. **Future Events:**
 - a) **Wessex OUGS AGM** D'Urberville Centre, Wool.10.00-16.00, 27.1.18. Jeremy outlined an interesting day of talks.
 - b) An **OUGS field trip to Vallis Vale** will be on 18.2.18.

- c) **GeoWeek** Saturday 5th May to Sunday 13th May. Alan will enquire what other local groups are doing for this week so we may link in. Possible events were suggested for Portland (a guided walk) and at the Etches Collection.
- d) A **DIGS / Wessex OUGS** conservation / field trip will visit Crack Lane, Langton Matravers on 21st. October.

10. **Any other business:**

- a) Planning application for quarry development at **Acton, Langton Matravers**. Sam Scriven alerted us to this. The proposed deepening of the quarry may reveal new exposures.
- b) Developments at **Stour Provost**. Apparently, this LGS is being filled with rubbish by the farmer. Alan will investigate.
- c) Pat informed the meeting that the farm close to the Inferior Oolite quarry near **Broadwindsor** has been sold and wondered if this might affect future access.

13. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 27th March at 7.00 p.m.