

Minutes of DIGS Meeting, Tuesday 22nd May 2018
Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands Farm, Forston

Present: Pete Bath, Jeremy Cranmer, Ian Hacker, Alan Holiday, Kelvin Huff, Charles Jackson, Geoff Pettifer, David Price, Paul Ramsden, Rhiannon Rogers, Malcolm Wright.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Andy Bradley, Pat and Roger Snelgrove, Jo Thomas, Niall Simpson.
2. **Minutes** of last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were approved with one minor amendment.
 - a) **Matters arising:** The brush cutter has been serviced at a cost of £59.94.
3. **Financial update:** Rhiannon provided the following figures: the Nationwide account balance stands at £3358.08 and the Lloyds account balance stands at £778.37. These totals do not include the brush cutter and insurance. The invoice for the Fossil Fair has also been paid. Rhiannon reported that all costs have been met for the financial year ending April 2018.
4. **Recent happenings:**
 - a) **Meeting re Fossil Forest site at Lulworth (28.3.18).** There has been another rock fall so the site is still considered unsafe. There will be a meeting in June to plan the way forward but it is now unlikely that the site will be re-opened by October.
 - b) **DGAG Barton and Milford field trip (7.3.18).** A successful trip despite the low attendance.
 - c) **Wessex OUGS Selsey Bill and Bracklesham field trip (29.4.18).** Another successful trip, albeit in rather chilly conditions. Unfortunately the main fossil beds were covered by beach material.
 - d) **Fossil Festival Lyme Regis (5/6.5.18)** The DIGS and DGAG teams had a busy weekend with lots of discussion, healthy publication sales and some new members signing up.
 - e) **Jurassic Coast Trust meeting, Bridport (9.5.18).** Two new books have been published and were circulated. These are available from the Jurassic Trust.
 - f) **Southampton Mineral & Fossil Society talk (15.5.18).** Alan gave a talk on the Variscan Orogeny which was well-received. Member Phil James has a large collection of rocks, minerals and books at his house.
 - g) **DGAG Shropshire and the Black Country Field Trip 18th-21st May.** Alan gave a brief resume of this successful trip. The fine, sunny weather was a bonus.

5.	<p>Reminder on General Data Protection Regulation and DIGS. The deadline for the return of forms has now passed (16th May). DIGS members who haven't given their consent via the form will soon be deleted from the e-mailing list. The new law takes effect from 25th May.</p>
6.	<p>Ridgeway Project development: Update The document written by Alan on the Ridgeway's geology has been circulated but there has been no feedback from the Ridgeway Project. The document has been made available via the DIGS website.</p>
7.	<p>Rodwell Cutting update. Nine members had attended a site meeting on 3rd May. Roger had sent through comments on how impressive the site is (largely due to Geoff P's efforts) and support for the proposal to adopt it as an LGS. This proposal was endorsed by the meeting. Alan will contact WPBC and DCC to start the designation process. Jeremy emphasised the need to have an action plan for the adoption of the site detailing what we propose to do there. A botanical assessment will be sought from Joanne Keegan.</p>
8.	<p>Proposed Dorset National Park. Alan reported on a meeting with Sandra Brown, a protagonist of the proposal. Introductory leaflets were circulated and Sandra is keen to elicit the support of groups such as DIGS. A lively discussion followed, focusing mainly on the boundaries of the proposed Park. Those present agreed in principle to support it and Alan will seek clarification on the boundaries, inclusions, exclusions, etc.</p>
9.	<p>Sites and conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Wanderwell. Alan reported that the site is in good condition with fine exposures. Roger is working with Geoff R. and Andy to further enhance the site. b) Vinney Cross. Roger has visited the site with his team who have done further work over two days, leaving the site in good condition. c) Holt Farm. Alan reported that a recent visit showed access to the rock face is becoming difficult owing to nettle growth which now needs clearing. d) Spring Lane, Longburton. Pete Bath is in the process of arranging a suitable date to visit. e) Evershot. Geoff R. and Andy are looking after the management of this site. f) Ridgeway Cutting. A session is planned for Wednesday 30th May at 10.30 a.m.

	<p>g) Kingston Maurward. A session is planned for 19th June if an inspection by Kelvin over the weekend deems it necessary.</p> <p>h) Rocket Quarry, Portesham. BBC4 wish to make a programme on geological conservation in Dorset which involves this site. It was agreed to delay work here so a 'before and after' picture can be filmed. However, Alan has had no response from the BBC regarding a filming date. If Kingston Maurward is okay a session will take place on 19th June.</p> <p>i) Red Lane. Alan will check the site to establish if further work is needed.</p>
10.	<p>Future Events:</p> <p>a) DGAG Portland field trip (2.6.18). This will include a visit to Albion Stone and other sites of interest on Portland, the latter being led by Alan.</p> <p>b) OUGS Geology of the Winscombe Area (16.6.18) led by Andy Bradley.</p> <p>c) Dorset Building Stones Group church visit to Sturminster Newton, Hammoon and Manston (20.6.18)</p> <p>d) The geology and geomorphology of the Valley of the Stones and Compton Valence (July 1st 2018) led by Kelvin Huff. The sarsens at the V.of S. need cleaning and DIGS will oblige (date tbc)</p> <p>e) Dorset Building Stones Group church visit to Holnest, Longburton and Lillington (11.7.18)</p> <p>f) DGAG Chairman's Picnic Worbarrow Bay (21.7.18)</p> <p>g) DIGS / Wessex OUGS conservation/field trip Langton Matravers Crack Lane. (21.10.18)</p>
11.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>a) Jeremy has been in contact with Ian West and has learned that his wife died recently.</p> <p>b) Paul reported that there is a Horn Park Open Day on 28th May, featuring displays from Beaminster Museum.</p> <p>c) The Swanworth Open day is on 12.7.18 at 5.30 p.m. Geoff P. will represent the DIGS group.</p> <p>d) Alan has been in contact with a Belgian documentary film-maker who is visiting Dorset 11-15. 6. 18. Alan has a meeting with her on 14.6.18 and the film is being entitled "Solid Ground".</p> <p>e) A series of walks led by the Jurassic Coast Trust will take place on 26th May, 24th June and 29th July. Details from the website.</p>
12.	<p>Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th July at 7.00 p.m.</p>