

Minutes of DIGS Meeting, Tuesday 27th March 2018 **Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands Farm, Forston**

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

Rhiannon was thanked for her excellent flapjacks, these being provided as our normal baker has been away from the kitchen.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jo Thomas, Malcolm Wright.
2. **Minutes** of last meeting and matters arising: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.
 - a) **Matters arising:** Roger has heard nothing back from Anne Holloway regarding an information board for **Rockpit Farm**. Alan has already submitted a paper covering the building stone.
 - b) **Westhill Chalk Pit:** Alan has had a positive response from Pam White. Pat felt that a better quality image is needed which Alan agreed to sort out, along with a panoramic image of Poxwell Quarry.
3. **Financial update:** Rhiannon provided the following figures: the Nationwide account balance stands at £3356.29 and the Lloyds account balance stands at £778.31. Kelvin has been added as a new signatory, replacing Sam Scriven, and Rhiannon will present the necessary documentation to Lloyds Bank shortly.
4. **Recent happenings:**
 - a) **OUGS AGM (27.1.18).** Another well-attended annual event with an excellent programme of talks
 - b) **Conservation at Vallis Vale (6.2.18) and OUGS field trip (18.2.18).** A work party of 6 ensured the site was in tip-top condition for the OUGS visit, which had only limited attendance. Alan has been in contact with an enthusiastic representative from Aggregate Industries who has a brief to oversee disused sites. Alan will be updating him on the geological importance of this site.
 - c) **Fleet Study Group** meeting ((16.2.18)). Alan attended on our behalf. There is an ongoing issue of access to the Fleet shore, especially within the Ilchester Estates section north of Langton Herring. The Herbury section is also effectively 'out-of-bounds'. The way forward is difficult to see at this stage.
 - d) **BOSCORF visit Wessex OUGS (22.2.18).** An excellent visit led by Millie Watts which complemented her talk at the OUGS A.G.M.

- e) Southhill Primary School for geological input (28.2.18). Alan led a workshop centred on fossils which was well-received.
- f) **Curry Fund** meeting (9.3.18). The committee does have money available for valid geological projects. Jeremy suggested developing a geological trail for Portland and this idea will be explored further.
- g) **DGAG field trip Salisbury building stones** (15.3.18). A successful day included a tour of the Cathedral Close followed by a Cathedral visit in the afternoon.

5. **General Data Protection Regulation and DIGS.** All groups storing personal data are affected by this change in the law. Rhiannon had previously circulated a pro-forma for members to complete and return to the DIGS Secretary, either digitally or as a hard copy. The deadline for receipt is 16th May 2018. Kelvin will send out the forms for completion and maintain a record of receipts.
6. **Ridgeway Project development: Update**
James Sharpe, AONB team member has been in contact with Alan to arrange a meeting to discuss extending the Project using voluntary labour. A document written by Alan on the Ridgeway's geology has been amended and illustrated following comments from Geoff Townson and Giles Watts. Alan will circulate the document to DIGS members for further comment.
7. **Rodwell Cutting development.** Geoff P. reported on further vegetation clearance at the site and proposed it be adopted as a LGS. The site already features in the Weymouth geological trail authored by Alan and an opportunity exists to develop some signage. A site meeting was proposed for Thursday 3rd May, leaving from Geoff P.'s house at 10.30 a.m. Address: 73 Clearmount Road, DT4 9LE. Tel: 01305789840. Rhiannon will send a copy of our insurance policy to Geoff for forwarding to WPBC ahead of the visit.
8. **Sites and conservation:**
 - a) **Red Lane, Abbotsbury** 30.1.18). A working party of 6 made good progress in achieving further clearance.
 - b) **Spring Lane, Longburton.** Pete Bath is in the process of arranging a visit.
 - c) **Wanderwell.** Roger reported on progress, including clearance of the lime kiln's walls and surrounds. General winter clearance has seen completion of work on the eastern slopes (all vegetation cleared on the lower slopes, including ground ivy) and a section on the western side. The disposal area has been cleared and stabilised, making more room for cuttings and cleared vegetation. Some work has been carried out on the southern exposure. A DIGS working

party removed two trees and further work is envisaged on 6th April at 10.30 a.m. There has been a positive response to the work done from Dorset Countryside and the local community.

- d) **Vinney Cross.** Any conservation session here will need to be re-arranged as the planned session on 20th March was cancelled owing to adverse weather conditions. Alan will inspect the site to ascertain the need for further work here.
- e) **Tarrant Rawston.** John Scott has advised that the site is not in need of immediate conservation work.
- f) **Rocket Quarry, Portesham.** BBC4 wish to make a programme on geological conservation in Dorset which may involve this site. It was agreed to delay work here so a 'before and after' picture can be filmed.
- g) **Ridgeway Cutting.** A session is planned for Monday 30th April at 10.30 a.m.

9. **Future Events:**

- a) **Fossil Forest meeting Lulworth Visitor Centre 28.3.18.** Access has been closed for two years owing to a 'risk of rock falls' and will not be restored until the early autumn. New steps and information boards will be installed, plus protective netting on the rock-face above the steps.
- b) **Barton and Milford on Sea DGAG field trip 7.4.18.** Alan has discovered a great new section east of Barton-on-Sea. Sign up with Malcolm Wright if you wish to attend.
- c) **Fossil Festival Lyme Regis 5-6.5.18.** Alan will have material on display from DIGS and DGAG on Saturday and Sunday. Please let Alan know if and when you are available to help out.
- d) **GeoWeek Saturday 5th May to Sunday 13th May.** Our contribution is covered by our presence at the Fossil Festival.
- e) **DGAG Shropshire and the Black Country Field Trip 18th-21st May.** Kelvin outlined the programme. Please let him know if you wish to attend. Alan is trying to arrange a visit to Lea Quarry on the outward journey (Fri.18th)
- f) **DIGS / Wessex OUGS conservation/field trip Langton Matravers Crack Lane. (21.10.18)** Please contact Jeremy if you wish to attend.

10. **Any other business:**

- a) Developments at **Stour Provost.** Alan has visited the site and confirmed it is owned by DCC but rented to a local farmer. Alan will contact the latter and check up on his intentions for the site.

- b) **DIGS Website.** The site was down recently as our registration had lapsed and the previous 'owner' had no interest in renewing it or informing us it had lapsed! Webmaster Gillian Gunner has now resolved the issue and migrated the content albeit with a slightly different URL.
<https://www.dorsetrigs.org/>
- c) Some links from other sites now don't work and will need to be amended by their respective webmasters.
- d) **The brush-cutter** is due for its service and Roger was given clearance to proceed with this.
- e) **Forthcoming OUGS Fieldtrips were** announced by Jeremy:
Geology of Durdle Cove led by Rory Mortimer. May 13th 2018
Geology of the Winscombe Area led by Andy Bradley. June 16th 2018
The geology of the Valley of the Stones and Compton Valence led by Kelvin Huff. July 1st 2018

13. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday May 22nd** at 7.00 p.m.