

## **Minutes of OBCG AGM on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

**Present** – Clare Shorter, Martin Keys, Norma Goodwin (who took minutes), Gordon Gunn, Alison Hull, Peter Land and Celia Cox.

### **Minutes of 2008 AGM**

agreed.

### **Matters Arising**

None.

### **Chairman's Report**

“The committee meets more often while working in the CA which makes practical sense as issues and decisions are made on the ground.

A year of peaceful growth for wildlife in CA since following Tom North's (of Limegrass) suggestions. We have simply enjoyed the area, carried out minimal management and observed and recorded plants and animals.

The website is a constantly developing testament to the seasonal changes – congratulations to Peter Land.

Very little money was spent thanks to Ben Spraggens who mows the meadow for free. Attempts were made to curb the most vigorous growth of pernicious weeds but spraying generally failed due to the wet weather and unfortunate timing of application. For 2009 we have asked Hugh Corry to take over this role to see if we can be more successful this year.

Rabbit control appeared to be successful during the 2008 growing period but we have sadly lost the support of Mr Coney. We need an alternative method of rabbit control.

Mowing the grassland continues to be an issue as the species diversity is not increasing and we must try other ways of disposing of the cut hay or take the dramatic step of scraping off the fertile topsoil and re-seeding a chalk meadow.

We continue to extend invitations to the local public with information and signs advertising events and articles in Community News, all of which takes a surprisingly large amount of time compared to the little response. However, we shall continue such events and capitalize by holding joint events with other groups – eg) Hampshire Wildlife Trust and the Greening Campaign.

Activities have included a number of work parties, mainly Sunday mornings, and the following events in 2008 - a bat walk along the R Itchen in Winchester on 13<sup>th</sup> June, hay mowing followed by a bonfire on 20<sup>th</sup> June, launch of Greening Campaign in Oliver's Battery on 11<sup>th</sup> October when Clare and Alison had a stall and a Christmas event in a local pub. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 we had a “green gym” event in the CA to attract new members which resulted in one!

Future activities in 2009 may include labeling trees with additional information; historic importance; Hampshire Wildlife Trust visit and walk and to install another bench.

The backbone of the group are members of the committee, friends and family who join in the work parties and carry out most of the physical labour involved in caring for trees, cutting brambles, mowing and raking the hay off the meadow and burning the resulting enormous piles. All this is done with awareness of health and safety issues for our members and local

visitors and walkers, hence our large annual recurring bill for insurance of nearly £200. Parish Council support may be sought in the future.

Our membership remains at a low number and efforts will be needed to increase to recruit membership in the future.

Until 2010 management will continue at the low intervention level. As the shrubs mature we need to develop more community involvement and participation. Walks seem popular particularly if they involve a picnic!

Many thanks to the whole committee for their support in making this a living area for wildlife and people.”

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Balance in current account as at 31 March 2009 £1605.59 as well as items owned by the group (assets). See separate sheet.

### **Election of Officers**

<b>Chair</b>	Clare Shorter proposed by Norma Goodwin seconded by Martin Keys
<b>Treasurer</b>	Martin Keys proposed by Clare Shorter seconded by Norma Goodwin
<b>Secretary</b>	Norma Goodwin proposed by Martin Keys seconded by Clare Shorter
<b>Committee</b>	Gordon Gunn proposed by Peter Land seconded by Alison Hull Alison Hull proposed by Clare Shorter seconded by Norma Goodwin Peter Land proposed by Clare Shorter seconded by Alison Hull

**Peter is also webmaster and group photographer**

### **Events, work parties and other business for 2009-2010**

Moth Trap evening (Martin)  
School Fete stall (Alison)  
Live trapping (Clare)  
Sweep nets for insects event(Clare)  
Bat Walk  
September walk  
Treasure Hunt  
Greening joint meeting.

General maintenance  
Mow meadow  
Labeling work party

Rabbit control – is there a local ferret club?  
Consider nest box for walnut tree and elsewhere  
Obtain felt for slow-worms  
Plant cowslips  
Eliminate Spanish bluebells.  
Seed a mix into long grass by gate from recreation ground  
Plug plants  
Consider shallow seasonal pond

### **Any Other Business**

None