

MINUTES of OLIVER'S BATTERY COUNTRYSIDE GROUP AGM held on 9th May 2011 In the Conservation Area

Present – Norma Goodwin, Alison Hull, Martin Keys, Peter Land, Helen Short, Clare Shorter and Brian Shorter.

Apologies – Celia Cox

Minutes of 2010 AGM – Correct, proposed by Alison and seconded by Brian. All in agreement.

Matters Arising – All matters within the Chairman's and Treasurer's Report.

Chairman's Report (May 2010 – May 2011)

Clare opened by praising the excellent website maintained by Peter which contains everything the group has done supported by a host of photographs of the conservation area. Her thanks were also extended to Peter and Brian who had carried out the bulk of the hard work by strimming the grass.

No spraying to control weeds was necessary in 2010. In Spring work parties cut back brambles by hand in selected places. During the Summer piles of brambles, grass and weed waste were burnt after ensuring no wildlife was present. The bench was replaced on 25th October for free apart from £60 travelling costs. Last winter (2010) was long and cold and delayed any work. Rabbit ferreting restarted in March by John Berry.

The shrubs are well established and some pruning needs to be considered next winter.

Our first public event was a walk on 27th June when we linked the school grounds with the CA and finished at Yew Hill. We enrolled 2 new members. Mammal trapping on 29th and 30th August revealed voles, mice and shrews. At the OB fete on 10th September we had a stall with apples to taste, wild flowers and activities. Another member was enrolled. In 2011 Celia Cox gave a successful walk and talk about edible plants and medicine and we enrolled another member. A further member joined in the winter. We lost 2 members who moved to Devon.

Clare thanked Martin for keeping the books and Norma for secretarial activities and for representing the group on the parish council who are paying our fee and insurance to BTCV this year in order for us to be able to continue our practical management.

Projects to consider for the future - are planting fruit trees and herbs, pruning, reseeding more wild flower areas and making a hibernaculum for slow worms. Recruiting new members, what we can offer them and more public education should be a goal as there is definitely a local interest. Two events already planned are a glow-worm walk in June and mammal trapping later. Would local people be interested in picnics?

Martin will train to use a strimmer and this is open to others. Members are encouraged to buy gloves and Clare recommended some from SCATS for less than £5 which will be reimbursed by the treasurer.

Treasurer's Report (1/4/2010 – 31/3/2011)

Balance from 31/3/2010 was £1282.74.

Income from membership fees £65.

Expenditure

Insurance and BTCV membership	£226.54
A Land for logo etc	£ 20.00
C Shorter expenses	£ 21.97
Woodland Oak benches	£ 60.00
TOTAL	£328.51

Balance in current a/c **£1019 .23**

Election of Officers

Voted unanimously were Clare Shorter as Chairman; Martin Keys as Treasurer and Norma Goodwin as Secretary. Committee – Alison Hull, Peter Land, Alex Land and Brian Shorter. Webmaster Peter Land.

Any Other Business

Events to be planned.

Possibly obtain a blackboard (Norma to investigate)

Clare to pursue possibility to have unfriendly signs changed.

Norma Goodwin