**Minutes of the BCV AGM**

Held at 11.00 on 17th June at Peacock Meadow

22 members attended

Apologies from, Nicky, Neville, Dinesh, Michael and Rose, Sally and Jim

Paul Cooper chaired the meeting and took notes

**Matters arising from the 2024 meeting:**

The car was disposed of and the garage handed back
Tools were moved to the lodge
A new deposit account was put in place with better interest rates
The tools were sorted, bagged and labelling has started
Paul C will update the task forms and provide a stock
Discussions are ongoing with the head ranger regarding task variety

It was agreed that last year's minutes be adopted

**The chair gave a brief report and review of 2024/5.**

New members were welcomed (Florin, Ed, Sally, Nick, Alan and Dan) and it was noted that Barbara, Helen and Hugh were no longer active however Hugh hopes to come back once his health improves. Members old and new will be on the newsletter circulation list but a note needs to be put on to ask people to let us know if they no longer want this.

The extensive list of projects undertaken included:
Coppicing, dead hedge creation, new paths and repair of old ones, bramble clearance, pond building, tree planting, ragwort clearance, fencing and knee rail builds, bee bank creation, fire breaks and helping to make the Bucklers community garden.
Despite people suggesting that our tasks are not varied enough the above list suggests otherwise.
However the task managers should in future engage more with the rangers to ensure that there is sufficient work for the now larger group before we get on site.
Paul commented that although we are paid little by the council as long as it covers our costs then we are VOLUNTEERS and as a group enjoy improving the environment, meeting together and working as much as they feel able to do. This continues to be the ethos of BCV.

**The finance report prepared by Malcolm and audited by Paul C** showed a small surplus and a healthy £10,000 on deposit. The budget for the year was agreed but it was noted that the Christmas party is by far the largest expense and we need to keep it under control as there are also more members now. No decision was taken on the large deposit which may be needed should the current tool storage and transport arrangement change.

**The officers for the new year are**:
Paul C will remain as Chair with Michele as Vice Chair
Malcolm will continue as treasurer with Paul C as auditor
Stuart will stay as data controller and webmaster
No one volunteered as a new task leader although Steve will now shadow. Paul, Richard, Jon and Iain will continue in their rolls. We do need someone to step up to take some of the burden off the 4 task leaders.

Roger after many years of service is stepping down from Secretary but will stay as archivist for the task forms. In his handover he will help Stuart and Iain create a complete member's list with contact details and set up a group email.
Gilles will now take on the production of the newsletter once a month
The task leaders will issue the task notifications once the new members list is available.
Nicky will stay on as group photographer and clothing controller. It was generally thought that people should get a shirt after 3 months of regular attendance.
Michele will take on the roll of BCV rep with the various council meetings. Mick, Trevor and Malcolm will also continue to be involved. It was felt that we need to be aware and input to the biodiversity plan. Malcolm will continue to supply our data to the council
Michele will continue to arrange the Christmas dinner
Lynette will continue as biscuit champion
Trevor will manage the task list for each quarter

**Tools**
The stock take showed that we have a considerable number and range of tools. Shortages which we agreed to purchase are: 3 loppers, an adjustable spanner, WD 40, a stiff broom and a leaf blower. As it will be a battery blower Trevor will take responsibility for it as chief fire manager.
It was agreed that broken and tools in need of repair are immediately put in a separate bag at the task site to isolate them.
Old first aid boxes are to be disposed of
Hi Viz vests are a bone of contention. The Chair feels that we should not encourage them because of the implication that we are working in a dangerous place. There are 2 in the general kit bag and should others feel they need them as they are very inexpensive should buy their own. If it looks like they are needed, a risk assessment needs to be done and recorded on the task sheet.

**AOB**
Malcolm confirmed that he has a list of the key holders. We must control these.
Informally Roy will encourage after task pub wind downs as a chance to socialize

**Actions from the above:**

Paul C to update the task forms and create a stock

Task leaders to engage more with the rangers to ensure that tasks are well planned

Michele to manage the Christmas dinner

Steve to become a shadow task leader

Stuart and Iain to manage the BCV email and members list to give those that need to access to email the group.

Michele to act as BCV rep with the council supporting Malcolm, Trevor and Mick

Mick to acquire the relevant tools needed and make the group aware of his log arch work