

Earlswood Wildlife Partnership

Annual General Meeting Monday 8th October 2018

Venue: Earlswood Village Hall

Time: 8.00pm

Draft Minutes

Bob Roberts thanked Gina Rowe (WkWT) for her talk on 'Restoring the River Blythe'. The AGM then commenced.

1. Apologies

- Brenda Brown, Barry Durman, Janet James, Su James (WkWT)

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

- These were read and approved as correct (proposed Bob Roberts, seconded Paul Wilkinson).

3. Chairman's Report - Ron reported on the events that had taken place in the period 30th April 2017 to 30th June 2018, these were:

- Spring all-day birdwatch at Earlswood May 6th 2017 – 65 species of birds were recorded in the Earlswood area on the day. Thanks to Matt Griffiths for organising this.
- Earlswood "Springwatch" May 13th 2017 - Thanks to Julie and Chris for hosting the event at the Log Cabin and to everyone from all the organisations that attended, our own members and other volunteers for their efforts, time and talents and special thanks to Barbara Philp without whom 'Springwatch' would not have happened. He went on to say that sadly Earlswood Springwatch 2018 had to be cancelled due to a number of administrative issues, including insurance and risk assessments, and it seems that it may be a few years before we can hold any similar event. However we hope to be able to run several smaller events in the coming year alongside our usual bat walks and other events.
- Dragonfly survey 12th August 2017 - The following species were recorded on the day - Banded Demoiselle, Common Darter and Red-eyed Damselfly. Other species recorded by Tony Philp throughout 2017 in Earlswood area were: Brown Hawker, Emerald Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly, Small Red-eyed Damselfly, Southern Hawker and Migrant Hawker.
- Moth night 14th September 2017 – This was held at St Patrick's churchyard and 8 species of moth were trapped and identified. Thanks to Tony and Barbara Philp for organising and running this event.
- Bat Survey 2nd September 2017 – 115 bat boxes were surveyed and although bat numbers were down on last year we again recorded a Leisler's Bat, this time in Clowes Wood. This is the 1st record of a Leisler's Bat in

Clowes Wood SSSI. We also held 2 bat walks on 21st August 2017 and 13th April 2018 and would like to thank Paul Wilkinson once again for leading these events.

- Garden Butterfly Survey 2017 - 2017 was a much better year for butterflies than 2016 however we are still not back to the numbers we were seeing in 2014. Hopefully 2018 will continue this positive trend for our garden butterflies.
- Birding for Beginners 14th April 2018 – As in previous years this event was greatly enjoyed by those attending who learned some helpful tips on how best to view and identify birds. 29 different species of bird were seen on the day. Thanks to Tony Philp for running this event again.
- Other matters – The work undertaken by a local landowner in recent months removing trees on land adjacent to Terry's Pool and Rose Farm which is on land adjoining Clowes Woods SSSI. This site is owned and managed by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, and we have been working with WkWT and Natural England to try to minimise any damage to the SSSI site in this area.

4. Treasurer's report & adoption of accounts

- As Brenda Brown was not able to attend no report was given however, the accounts were adopted as correct (proposed Bob Roberts, seconded Paul Wilkinson)

5. Election of Steering Committee

- Ron first asked if there were any volunteers to join the committee - there were none. He then continued by saying he felt unable to continue as Chairman for personal reasons and was therefore going to step down, but would remain on the committee as Vice-Chairman as this position has been vacant for some time. He asked for someone to take over as chairman.
- Bob Roberts agreed to take over as Chairman but before any vote was taken explained to the meeting that he felt there was one point that members needed to be aware of: the EWP constitution requires 3 signatories to the bank account - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and all payments require two of the three to sign. As the secretary is his wife (Cheryl Roberts), this meant that it would be possible for him and his wife to be the signatories on any cheques. The meeting raised no objection to this. Bob Roberts was then elected as Chairman (proposed Len Cresswell, seconded Arthur French).
- Cheryl Roberts then told the meeting that as Bob had now taken over as Chairman he would no longer be Membership Secretary. As there were no volunteers to take over either the position of Secretary or Membership Secretary Cheryl will now take over the duties of Membership Secretary as well as Secretary.
- The remainder of the committee were then reappointed en bloc.

6. Any other business

- In answer to a question by Yvonne Heward, Bob expanded on the final point in the Chairman's report. He explained that the land owner in question, Mr Parker, had originally misread the boundary of his land on the land registry map and his work had infringed on the SSSI site. Once this was noticed he was contacted by EWP, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WkWT) and Natural England (NE) and a temporary boundary was marked out and remedial work requested to correct damage done. However later work had again infringed on the SSSI site and WkWT have written to Mr Parker to tell him he had again crossed the boundary and asking him to stop work. He has complied with this request. WkWT will be shortly installing a more permanent boundary and assessing any further damage caused.
- Peter Kennard queried whether EWP had opposed the planning application in Wood Lane (as noted in the AGM Minutes of 21st November 2017). It was confirmed that we sent a letter of objection but we believe that, after an amendment to the planning application reducing the number of houses from 4 to 3, the planning application was approved. However it is also believed, to date, no building work has been undertaken on the site.
- Len Cresswell gave an update on the work undertaken by CRT on Engine Pool and reported that no Wells Catfish had been found in the pool. He said that there are still no fish in Engine Pool and none will be introduced until at least December 2019. The reintroduction will be of 'mixed silver fish' which will include small carp.
Several people expressed the opinion that whilst there has been no fishing on Engine Pool the environment has been much improved for all other users (e.g. dog walkers and general walkers) and the amount of litter in the area has been considerably less. In addition, all wildlife in the area has benefited from the reduced amount of disturbance and a pair of swans that nest in the area have this year been able to fledge 4 of their signets, which is more than have survived in recent years.
- Gina Rowe asked that thanks be given to Ron for all of his hard work with WkWT and EWP during his years as Chairman of EWP. Bob Roberts also said that it should be remembered that Ron, along with Izumi Segawa of WkWT, were the instigators of the setting up of the EWP and so without him we would not exist. The meeting all agreed with these sentiments and showed their appreciation with thanks and a round of applause.

The meeting was then closed.