

Wembury MCA Advisory Group (WAG)

Minutes of the AGM held on 22 November 2018 at The Marine Biological Association Laboratory The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, PL1 2PB

Present:

Name	Initials	Representing
Roger Swinfen	RS	WAG - Chair
John Hepburn	JH	WAG - Sec
Keith Hiscock	KH	Marine Biological Association (MBA)/WAG – Vice Chair
Phil Pascoe	PP	WAG - Treasurer
Paul Naylor	PN	WAG – Committee
Jack Sewell	JS	MBA/WAG - Committee
Nigel Mortimer	NM	South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (SDAONB)
Coral Smith	CS	Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT)/WMC
Cat Andrews	CA	DWT/WMC
Gerald Boalch	GB	MBA
Teresa Naylor	TN	WAG
Karen Williams	KW	WAG
John Williams	JW	WAG

Item	Discussion (action items in bold)	Action
1. Apologies for absence	Sally Sharrock Paul Martin Paul Leonard	
2. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the last meeting with no dissent. See https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hsbxa6seyrcx0vl/AABC6UhuP2V1t8F-kLYFtS8aa?dl=0 .	
3. Matters arising.	<p>Engage local MPs (continues from last year) (All). No action other than participation in the Marine National Park (MNP) process, reported below. Ongoing.</p> <p>LB to send details of rocky shore monitoring transects to CS, and to JS for MBA surveys. Outstanding.</p> <p>CS did not need any new guides for WMC in 2018. Ongoing.</p> <p>MW forwarded contact details for Chelsea Bradbury of the Crown Estate Marine Division but the fund it was hoped to access no longer operates. No further action (NFA).</p> <p>JS presented the results of the 2018 Bioblitz in the R Yealm. The appointment of Cllr John Green as project manager was a key element in the success of the project which had a longer duration and wider extent than the usual 24 hours event. It had been linked with the Life on the Yealm project and included pre-event training and trial bioblitzes in schools. It was also linked with the “City Nature Challenge” which had helped get the citizen science recording platform iNaturalist recognised by the National Biodiversity Network. It was hoped to run the</p>	<p>All</p> <p>LB</p> <p>JS</p>

	<p>Wembury Bioblitz, 5 - 6 July 2019 in a similar way, recognising the importance of including offshore areas and linked to the Wembury Marine Conservation Area 25th anniversary. A notable result was the discovery of a new species of tardigrade, to be named <i>bioblitziana</i>. JS' presentation with more details of outcomes is at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hsbxa6seyrcx0vl/AABC6UhuP2V1t8F-kLYFtS8aa?dl=0. (PMN: The dates of the bioblitz and 25th anniversary celebration have been changed to 27-28 September 2019)</p> <p>JS completed the "City Nature Challenge" 2018. NFA.</p> <p>CS in LS' absence reported that the shop had been asked to stop selling fishing nets but without effect. Ongoing</p> <p>CS reported that a Natural England (NE) licence to study the giant goby population is needed, but the process has stalled with LB being on sick leave. With changes to volunteer resources in 2018 and future years there is insufficient time for WMC to carry out research and prepare education measures to improve giant goby protection. Ongoing.</p> <p>JH had implemented a programme of evening talks. Ongoing.</p> <p>KH presented the progress of the National Marine Park (NMP) initiative. The next meeting is due 6 Dec, for which a prospectus is expected. KH displayed a map showing a 10 nautical mile radius centred on the Hoe, which represents the extent of common recreational activity from Plymouth, but thought it likely that the proposed park would consist of a Plymouth Sound badging programme, which might include recognising the importance of shipping, schools and outreach for example. He was particularly concerned that public engagement with the marine environment should be part of the project and that WMC's contribution should be recognised. The role of Drake's Island in the park is unknown. Ongoing.</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>JH</p> <p>KH</p>
<p>4. Chairman's Report.</p>	<p>KH reported on the proceedings of the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) which he had attended as Vice-chairman, representing the Chairman who was unable to attend. He had stressed that the Marine Protected Area is a valuable education resource used by WMC and Blue Sound for example, and he had suggested that the next meeting should contain a presentation on the extent and importance of such usage. A Marine Park Group, consisting of the Blue Foundation, Luke Pollard MP, the National Marine Aquarium (NMA), Marine Institute (MI) and Plymouth City Council (PCC), has been established. A meeting is scheduled for all interested parties on 6 Dec; WAG will be represented. (PMN: Meeting postponed to the New Year, due to Luke Pollard's parliamentary commitments.)</p> <p>As Chairman, RS reported that he had represented the group at the recent WMC funding partners' meeting stressing WAG's contribution to the Centre's output. That the Centre is so well known nationally is a good measure of its performance. He thanked all for their contributions over the last 40 years. He felt this was the right time to hand over the chairmanship to someone younger and suggested PN as his successor.</p>	
<p>5. Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>There was a surplus in the year of £111.67, resulting from talks at the Marine Centre. The current balance stands at £1,797.30. See accounts below at Appendix 1. The bank balance has been transferred to a</p>	

	<p>Santander Treasurer's account which will allow paying in electronically. The report was accepted unanimously. CS expressed the group's gratitude to JH, suggesting that more support for the evening talks would be appropriate. JH will investigate the feasibility of using other venues in the event of anticipated attendees exceeding the centre's capacity.</p>	JH
6. Warden's Report.	<p>CA presented the Centre's performance against its targets, all of which had been exceeded. Better use is now made of social media with feedback being recorded on Facebook and Trip Advisor. The University's support of £5K annually is no longer certain, although a grant from Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) for £3K will help bridge the shortfall.</p> <p>The wardens' presentation and summary of outputs is at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hsbxa6seyrcx0vl/AABC6UhuP2V1t8F-kLYFtS8aa?dl=0.</p>	
7. Natural England (NE) Report	<p>NE was not represented and did not send a report.</p> <p>PMN: NE deleted from Database during GDPR purification, now restored.</p>	
8. SDAONB Report	<p>Water quality was the theme for work in schools this year using "The Drip" animation launched last year. There has been greater focus on the Heritage coast which extends some distance offshore. Planning guidance on coastal development includes a "no net loss policy." And sustainable urban development has to ensure drainage does not adversely affect water quality. Reports on environmental threats such as runoff from building sites and illegal fishing can be made on 0800 807060. NE has conducted a survey of Pacific oysters in the area; disposal of the shells after removal is proving a problem. A South Devon catchments partnership has been established. There has been an increased focus on plastic waste. Measures have been taken to reduce the flow in the stream emptying into Cellar Beach to reduce erosion and consequential silting. The effects of the extension of the Sherford development into the Yealm catchment area have not been taken into account.</p> <p>The presentation is at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hsbxa6seyrcx0vl/AABC6UhuP2V1t8F-kLYFtS8aa?dl=0.</p>	
9. National Trust (NT) Report	<p>NT was not represented and did not send a report.</p> <p>PMN: NT deleted from Database during GDPR purification, now restored.</p>	
10. Talks and activities 2019	<p>JH suggested the programme at Appendix 2 which has been updated since the meeting, and requested suggestions for talks.</p>	JH
11. Election of Officers.	<p>RS proposed PN as chairman, with KH seconding, agreed unanimously. RS agreed to remain as a committee member.</p> <p>NM proposed, with PN seconding that the remaining officers and committee should be re-elected en bloc, agreed unanimously. As all</p>	

	<p>current officers and committee were willing to stand, and there were no other candidates, they were unanimously elected.</p> <p>Chairman PN Vice Chairman KH Secretary JH Treasurer PP Committee members RS, JS</p> <p>PN thanked RS for his passion and commitment to marine conservation in Wembury for so long, and for making his experience available by remaining on the committee. GB also thanked RS for his determination, especially in the early days when discussions with other authorities had been heated.</p>	
12. DONM.	Thursday 21 November 2019, 1830 - 2030. KH will book MBA.	JH/ KH

Appendix 2

Talks and activities 2019 - Outline

Dec 6 NMP event at NMA
10 Volunteers social event
Jan
Feb 7 ?
Volunteers RPR
Mar 21 talk by CPRE
Apr 12 South West Marine Ecosystems Conference at UofP
26 – 29 International City Nature Challenge (tbc)
May
Jun 7 World Oceans Day event, Firestone Bay
12 & 13 (tbc) Marine Institute student graduation presentations (inc MRes,&
PhD)
Jul
Aug
Sep 27-28 Wembury Bioblitz and 25th anniversary of Wembury MCA
Oct Volunteers RPR (Wembury Point)
Nov 21 AGM
Dec Volunteers' social event

Other Possible topics

Plankton evening(s?) (Dave Conway?)
Joint day with MBA
Effects of climate change on rocky shores (Nova Mieszkowska?)
Robot boats survey of fish in MPAs (Stephen Cotterell?)
PLUTO (underwater webcam) (Nicholas Higgs)
Beginners guide to Wembury Shore
Kelp research at Wembury (Dan Smale (MBA))