

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 1st April 2019 at Sourton Hall

Parish Councillors present: J.Hockridge (Chair), P.Deacon, S.Eberle, A.Horn & G. Jury.

Also present: Cllr C. Mott (WDBC), R.Taylor (DNP Ranger), two members of the public and M Leonard (Clerk)

1. The Chairman welcomed members of the public and Rob Taylor (DNP)
2. Apologies - none
3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were taken as read and agreed as a true record. To be signed by the Chairman.
4. Matters arising from the minutes - none
5. Guest speakers

The Chairman invited Rob Taylor, Dartmoor National Park Ranger, to give the meeting his annual update on local activities in the Park.

Mr Taylor explained the role of the DNP Officer and that the National Park is divided into nine areas. In the coming year Route 27 will be upgraded - the surface between Peter Tavy Inn and Mary Tavy power station. Also Standon Steps bridge is in a state of poor repair. Ten Tors will be using it, so work will be done on that too in collaboration with the MoD.

He works closely with the four voluntary workers who check rights of way regularly. A new voluntary worker will be joining at Lydford. Issues on public rights of way can now be reported on - line, which is proving useful. DNP reports back onto the website when the work is done.

The initiative to encourage children to get to know Dartmoor is continuing. The Ranger Ralf group covers 6 - 11 year olds who get chances to work with rangers a few times a year. Junior Rangers is for 11-15 year olds. This group is a more hands-on, helping with work. Children who attend all 8 events earn a certificate. Youth Rangers for 15-18 year olds has just been launched. This is not only for helping but for getting a broader and wider picture of what the park is all about. A military themed day is being organised for them next week which will include watching live firing and also making bat boxes. National Park Fortnight starts next week. There will be public events on open access, and Forest School for ages 5-11 on the first day and ages 11-15 on the next day.

The most significant project over the last 6 months and ongoing over the next 18 is the peat restoration project which is funded by SWW. Rattlebrook track is very wet and washed away - so the Duchy will be funding some work on the track, adding stone etc. and encouraging water to run off it. The Peatland restoration will get going towards the end of the year. About 114 hectares are being worked on. This will probably last until the bird nesting season starts again.

Mr Taylor then answered questions, following which the Chairman thanked him for his talk and said he appreciated the work that he has done over the year.

6. Parish Council's report

The Clerk circulated a list of income and expenditure during the financial year.

7. Reports from other Parish organisations

Cllr Jury reported on the following -

Sourton Hall received £300 from Waitrose tokens. Thanks to all those who supported this. The money will be put towards refurbishment of the Gents toilet. The committee is hoping to get grants as well and that the work will be done soon. The hall is doing quite well with lots of bookings.

The Friendship Group is continuing but could do with more members.

The Produce Show will be held on 17th August. This year there will also be vintage tractors and cars, some trade stands and a dog show.

The Chairman congratulated the Hall Committee for its hard work in keeping the hall going and raising money for projects each year to keep it smart and up to date.

8. Matters raised by Parishioners

None raised

9. Close of meeting at 8.05pm