



# SWANPOOL LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

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## Minutes of the Swanpool Management Forum AGM & Meeting held on:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013  
The Information Centre, Swanpool, Falmouth

**Present:**

**PL:** Peter Lochrie, Swanpool Lessee ,( Chairman/Treasurer)  
**GT:** Gary Thomson, Swanpool Volunteer Warden  
**MB:** Malcolm Brain, Resident, (Past Chairman)  
**BE:** Peter Hartley, Falmouth Model Boat Club  
**EL:** Esther Lochrie, Swanpool Beach  
**DY:** David Yelland, Falmouth Bay Residents' Association, (Secretary)

### 1) AGM

1.1 Apologies for absence

Beth Tonkin (**BT**), Martin Rule (**MR**)

1.2 Chairman's report

**PL** reported that the nature reserve was in good health and had experienced a successful year with it being featured on a peak time BBC television programme and with the projects for the viewing area and capping works having made significant progress. Further coppicing work had been completed as part of an ongoing schedule.

In conclusion the Chairman reported that the Forum had successfully performed its role and duties throughout the past year, remained financially solvent and was well placed to continue to manage effectively its responsibilities with respect to the Swanpool nature reserve.

1.3 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer (**PL**) reported that the Forum's bank balance currently stood at £1626 and that there were no outstanding financial liabilities. (Balance at last AGM = £1171)

#### 1.4 Election of Officers

Peter Lochrie (**PL**) was re-elected to serve as Chairman and Treasurer; David Yelland (**DY**) was re-elected to serve as Secretary.

#### 1.5 Any other business

It was noted that Esther Lochrie had been confirmed as a member of the Forum at the meeting held on 18 September, 2013

No further items raised. AGM closed and Forum management meeting commenced.

## 2. Management Meeting

#### 2.1 Apologies for absence

Beth Tonkin (**BT**), Martin Rule (**MR**)

#### 2.2 Minutes of last meeting (18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013)

Accuracy agreed

**PL** has contacted Marlborough School to check if Bob Eldridge is to continue as a member of the Forum or if a replacement will be proposed. Response awaited

All other matters arising taken under today's agenda headings.

#### 2.3 Treasurers report - As AGM report, see 1.3 above

#### 2.4 Viewing area/terracing update + capping works project

Both the terracing and capping works projects are proceeding broadly in line with the details recorded in the minutes of the last meeting although time scales have been extended. Licenses are being sought from Natural England in respect of the clearance work necessary at the north end of the lake and also for the capping project. It is expected that the licenses will be granted before the end of January.

Cornwall Council suggested that the Forum arranges for the site clearance work to be undertaken by its independent contractor, Chris Danks. This was agreed, **PL** to arrange. Once the clearance work has been completed a site meeting will be held to finalise all design details and agree construction time scales, which will need to be planned in consideration of wildlife breeding seasons and the active period of the trembling sea mat.

Although the completion dates for both the terracing and capping projects have been extended the Forum members present were, nevertheless, very pleased that these much anticipated and beneficial projects had finally been commissioned.

## 2.5 Projects

### (i) Coppicing

The coppicing programme will continue next year with funding allocated from the “Wainhomes Section 106” grant

### (ii) Capping works

As reported in section 2.4 above

### (iii) Highway works

Nothing to report

## 2.6 Children’s play area

**PL** outlined a proposal for the construction of a children’s play area on a section of the car park close to the information centre. A pre-application has been lodged with Cornwall Council to determine the planning considerations that may apply to the application.

It is hoped that funding for the project will be awarded from “Section 106” monies, and it was reported that both Cornwall Council and Falmouth Town Council have expressed general support for the concept. Funding has to be sought by a properly constituted public interest organization other than a local council or commercial enterprise. A separate organisation could be established for this purpose but as the project would benefit the aims of the Swanpool Forum in promoting the nature reserve it was proposed that the Forum takes assumes the lead role for the project.

The Forum members expressed general support for the project and agreed to pursue the matter further, subject to confirmation that it was not in contravention of the constitution and that it received the support of Natural England .(N.E.) **DY** was requested to follow up on these matters.

(NOTE: subsequent to the meeting it was determined that there was nothing in the constitution which prohibited the Forum from being involved in the manner described. Also Beth Tonkin confirmed that N.E. had no objection in principle to the Forum’s involvement and believed that incorporating environmentally educational themes into the design of the play area would be a very positive development. N.E. would monitor the detailed plans for the play area to ensure no adverse impact on the nature reserve.)

## 2.7 Any other business

Two of the information boards on the nature reserve are in a poor state of repair and need replacing. **PL** will circulate details of updated text for the signs for approval to Forum members. The cost of replacement will be funded from the general account.

The resident cob suffered from a respiratory ailment in mid October and required treatment at the Taunton and St Columb RSPCA centres. During its absence the pen chased off a number of visiting swans. The cob has returned to the lake and appears to have fully recovered and, together with the pen, have shooed off the three cygnets, an event which usually happens in early January.

## 2.8 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 , 3.45 p.m. , Swanpool Business Centre