



# THANET COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

Registered charity No. 285972    Founded: 1971    Charitable Status: 1982

*Conservation and Education*

## MINUTES

### of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Thanet Countryside Trust

*Held at Monkton Nature Reserve on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017.*

#### **1. Welcome Address from Trustees**

1.1 The meeting was introduced by Trevor Shonk, Chairman of the Trustees, who thanked all those present for attending. He advised the meeting that with so few members being present we didn't have a quorum; therefore the Trustees could only provide their reports and nothing could be voted upon.

#### **2. Apologies received**

2.1 There were seven Members, four Trustees, one Warden and three Volunteers present at the AGM; at 15 people in total, possibly the lowest turn-out at an AGM for some time. No Apologies had been received from Members, just those from our other Warden and 5 Volunteers.

#### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

3.1 The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24/09/2016 were agreed to be a correct record of the proceedings. There were no matters arising from these minutes that couldn't be covered under forthcoming agenda items.

#### **4. Reports on Accounts**

4.1 Treasurer's Report: copies of the abbreviated accounts for the 2016-17 financial year were made available to all present at the meeting; these were just the summary pages of the full accounts, which number 16 pages in total and were made available on request. After a brief run-through by the Acting Treasurer, Andrew Ogden, the accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were accepted.

4.2 Andrew Ogden was thanked for his work as Honorary Treasurer over the last year and for continuing to manage the accounts as Acting Treasurer until a new volunteer could be found. The Trustees have accepted, with regret, Andrew's decision to step down from this post.

4.3 Our auditors, Neville Weston, were thanked for their continuing support and reappointed as our auditors for the forthcoming year.

#### **5. Trustees' Report:**

5.1 This year has seen the remarkable completion of some longed-for improvements to facilities in the Field Study Centre.

Monkton Nature Reserve, Canterbury Road, Monkton, Nr Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 4LH

[www.monkton-reserve.org](http://www.monkton-reserve.org)

e-mail: [contact@monkton-reserve.org](mailto:contact@monkton-reserve.org)

phone: 01843 822666

The previous Trustees had initiated the renovations and left the way open for the possibility of mains electricity. At our Open Day this year we were able to welcome and say 'thank you' to some of those who, by their generosity, facilitated this tremendous step forward – Kate McQuorcodale, of the Allan Willett Foundation, and KCC for the apportioning of S106 monies. We had also welcomed back our Member Mrs Frenken to share in the official opening of the completely refurbished Museum Room, named in appreciation of the contributions she and her late husband made to the very existence of the Field Study Centre in the early days. Our thanks, also, to everyone who contributed to the success of that celebration.

5.2 These generous financial resources allowed several aims to be achieved at the same time. Because a trench was needed for the mains electricity cable, Andrew put his close knowledge of drains to use, to incorporate a way of diverting and then sinking the tremendous floods of main road run-off water, which had hitherto swamped the Reserve at regular intervals.

5.3 The Trustees wish to express their appreciation to Andrew for his persistence and foresight in planning for both the mains electricity installation and the drainage solution.

5.4 Visitors to the Reserve this year have had to negotiate all the hazards of a building site, but thankfully new toilets, the construction of The Cabin, and installation of drainage went ahead without accident and without having to close the Reserve to the public. We express our thanks to the contractors involved. We are still not sure how the café within The Cabin will operate, as we expect that visiting groups will use it as a 'classroom', and this may limit what we are able to offer to other members of the public.

5.5 Finally, we wish to thank our Staff, Management Committee and Volunteers for not only their contributions, but for persevering and making our visitors feel so welcome, in spite of all the surrounding mayhem. We look forward to building on the potential of the milestones achieved this year in much less muddy surroundings !

## **6. Elections of Management Committee Members**

6.1 Under our Trust Deed, the Trustees are allowed to appoint people to a Management Committee to assist in the running of the Reserve. The Trust currently has several roles for Members to fill, which have recently been picked up by our paid staff, since other volunteers have had to stand down for various reasons; we are particularly in need of someone to become our new Treasurer.

6.2 A new Member, Ms Jan Revell, offered herself for the post of Honorary Treasurer and with her experience, quickly recommended herself to all present; her appointment was welcomed by all. The rest of the committee agreed to continue in their present roles.

## **7. Any other business**

7.1 In light of personnel changes and the continuing developments at the Reserve, it was decided not to fix the date of next year's AGM. There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.