SWANPOOL
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE
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Minutes of the Swanpool Management Forum Meeting held on:

Wednesday 3rd May, 2023,
Marlborough School, Falmouth

Present:

PL: Peter Lochrie, Swanpool Beach Ltd. (Chair)
LG: Louise Gall, Marlborough School
SG: Sheila Gowers, Falmouth Bay Residents' Association
DE: Dean Evans, Falmouth Town Councillor
TM: Tessa Marie, Falmouth Town Council EEEO
EL: Esther Lochrie, Swanpool Beach Ltd.
TP: Tom Payne, Swanpool Beach Ltd.
DY: David Yelland, Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan, (Secretary)

1. **Introductions and apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Debra Clegg and Zoe Young.

2. **Special Item: Procedure and arrangements for appointment of officers**

It had been advised that Forum Chair, Pete Lochrie, wished to stand down from his role and nominate Esther Lochrie as his replacement. Additionally, Tom Payne had offered to become Forum Secretary as David Yelland had indicated he was seeking a successor. To comply with the Constitution, which requires officers to serve until the next AGM, it was agreed to designate today's meeting, formally, as an AGM. It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the officers to serve the Forum until the next AGM would be:

Chair	-	Esther Lochrie
Treasurer	-	Sheila Gowers*
Secretary	-	Tom Payne

*Subject to resolution of banking issues.

PL was thanked for over 10 years of service as Forum Chair.

3. **Minutes of meeting held on 08/02/2023 and actions arising**

(i) Accuracy agreed

(ii) Actions arising

All actions arising had been completed or covered under agenda items for today's meeting.

4. Treasurer's report

There are issues with the Forum's bank account held at Barclays which relate to the account being in the name of Swanpool Forum CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and our wish to rescind the charity status but to maintain the bank account. Barclays have advised that we will need to close the account and open a new one. However, it may be simpler to open the new account with another bank, e.g. Lloyds. The options and actions necessary to resolve the issue will be pursued by the Chair and Treasurer**.** **Action EL & SG**

5. Projects – Invasive species, other

It has now been confirmed that the c£4000 Natural England grant funding to tackle invasive species could possibly be used to provide two additional floating islands on the lagoon. These islands provide perches for visiting herons, cormorants, etc. and also offer a safe nesting area for the resident swans. Natural England has not officially approved this proposal but have asked for an official consent form to be submitted. This will require details of the original floating islands and has been passed to **PL** to action. **Action PL**

6. Falmouth Green Corridor Forum (FGCF)

SG, **DE** and **TM** attended and reported on the recent FGCF meeting.

It was noted that waymarker signs have now been installed at various points throughout the corridor.

The ownership of the dense woodland area at Queen Mary Gardens has been identified. It is in private ownership and being kept as a natural area of biodiversity. Although this area will be identified as an integral part of the green corridor it will not be possible, nor appropriate, to pursue the original concept of forming a pathway to link Swanvale with the top of Sherburne Road.

The annual Friends of Tregoniggie Woodland fair will be held on Saturday 13th May.

The next FGCF meeting will be held on Thursday 13th July

7. Future plans and activities

PL reported that as he is standing down as Forum Chair he has not progressed the proposal for a Spring event at the reserve. (Newly elected Chair, **EL** outlined her thoughts on the future direction of the Forum under AOB.)

8. Any other business

The bathing water quality at Swanpool Beach has been downgraded from Excellent to Good by the Environment Agency who are now launching an investigation to determine the source of the pollution which is a mix of avian, canine and human waste. The EA will be sampling in the pool and other points in the catchment area. It will probably be several months before any conclusive findings are made known.

SG reported that the Falmouth Bay Residents' Association is lobbying CC Highways to place double yellow lines on the corner of the back lane opposite the toilets.

The appeal against refusal of the planning application to build two large houses on the old quarry site on the bank between the cemetery and the beach has been dismissed.

SG will liaise with **EL** on updating the Forum's website

PL and **EL** confirmed that they are progressing the winding up of the Forum's charity status

The resident cob and pen have nested at the northern end of the pool but it is anticipated that the eggs/cygnets will be taken by foxes.

EL outlined her thoughts regarding future plans for the Forum to be more proactive in pursuing activities to conserve and enhance the flora and fauna on the nature reserve. She has been having discussions with a Phd student engaged in a study under the authority of the British Trust for Ornithology and believed that he and others attached to the university could bring ecological expertise to the Forum and help it develop an ecological plan. It is also hoped that the profile of the nature reserve can be raised with a greater presence on social media, particularly with the posting of photographs of all the various plant and wildlife activities on the reserve. These ideas and action plans will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The timing and venue of future meetings is to be reviewed to ensure that the arrangements are suitable for the majority of members. **EL** will consult accordingly and advise the date and venue of the next meeting in due course.

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