

**Meeting of the Bolton Conservation Volunteers held at Sweet Green Tavern
on Wednesday 10 October 2018**

Present: Rick Parker, **Chair** (RP) Tom Bruce (TB) Caroline Bruce (CB) Colin Mather (CMA) Paul Thompson (PT)

Apologies: Colette Peachy, Lynn Entwistle and Jane Arkwright

Minutes: Accepted as an accurate record

1. The **Wildfest** at **Moses Gate** on the 23 September 2018 was a very successful event. The group thanked CMA for his write up on the website. RP invited feedback from the group and asked if it was something that we should run again next year. Feedback given was:

- The group thought the day went very well and was something that should be run again
- It would be better if was held during the school summer holidays
- Explore getting other groups involved like the Wildlife Trust.
- The group also discussed buying a permanent banner to help advertise the event better and purchasing a branded gazebo

RP thanked everyone involved for their hard work and for making the day such a success.

2. The **Curry walk** will be on the 14 October and details are on the website. If people only want to do half the walk, they can meet up at the Black Dog pub in Belmont at around 1.15 pm. RP also offered to pick people up from the Sweet Green Tavern at 12.30 p.m. on day.

3. The last task at **Firwood Fold** was very successful with a great turn out. Barbara Hackett from Firwood has sent an email thanking the group and was very pleased with the end result.

4. The **next task** will be working on the top pond at **Canon Slade School**. RP gave the group some background on the area. The top pond needs urgent restoration to conserve the habitat for important amphibians. The task will be removing trees to the south of the pond and creating a dead hedge.

5. The task at **Blackleach** to create our third cockleshell bed for terns will be on **04 November 2018**.

6. **Christmas Meal:** As it is difficult to find somewhere to accommodate our large numbers at a reasonable price, it was agreed to hold the Christmas Meal at the **Chinese Buffet** in Bolton.

7. **Doffcocker update:** the female swan at Doffcocker has now got a new mate so hopefully they will breed next year. PT gave the group some background on the previous swans at Doffcocker.

AOB:

1. TB - The Wildlife Trust is doing a reed management task at Doffcocker this month if anyone would like to go along. The date has not yet been confirmed.

2. The group agreed it was good idea for the minutes from this meeting to be handed out on task during lunch to update the volunteers.

3. TB asked if the group could buy extra tools as volunteers numbers have increased. The group agreed to purchase the tools needed such as hardhats and bow saws.

4. CMA - the final version of the **2019 Calendar** was given to CB for printing. A proof of the calendar to be given to CMA before the final print.

5. It was agreed that CMA should look into the costs of a new dongle to help speed up his work on the website and bring back to the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 14 November 8:00 p.m. at the Sweet Green Tavern, Bolton.