



# Report of the Parish Assembly 2018

Monday 16th April 2018, 7.30pm Tap Room, New Inn

Present: Cllr Janice Hughes (Chairman), Cllrs Keith Alderman, Bob Aylmer, Adam Knight, David Sexton; Alan Woolford. Clerk Susan Turner; Guest Mike Coates RSPB; Public 1

## 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

*The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Assembly and noted the lack of public attendance. Apologies received from County Cllr David Simpson, Ward Cllr Anne Crampton; PCSO Nick Greenwood, Frazer Hamilton*

## 2. RSPB UNDATE ON HAZELEY HEATH

*The Chairman thanked Mike Coates from RSPB for giving his time to present an update on Hazeley Heath.*

### i Fencing Application approved

Mike reported that the Common Land planning applications CL 49 and CL 100 for fencing and associated works on the Heath received approval on 15th April. Work will commence in September at the end of the breeding seasons.

### ii Funding

The current High Level Sustainable Finance funding ends in February 2019. Good news is that Natural England and the Rural Projects Agency have expressed satisfaction with the project progress and so new funding is in place. Bad news is that the new scheme funding can't be accessed until the beginning of the next calendar year 1st January 2020, giving an 11 month funding gap. Alternative funding sources are being considered.

### iii Birds

Notable bird species are doing reasonably well despite the weather. Dartford Warbler numbers are stable, Wood Lark slightly down, Night Jars not yet returned.

### iv Butterflies

March *Whitewater Magazine* featured an article from Mike on the Silver Studded Blue and Grayling. Hazeley Heath is an 'exemplar' site for butterfly management and hosting training days for other Heathland managers.

### v Reptiles

There has been an increase in the documented numbers of young adders but this may be due to more sites being surveyed. (Tin trays are put down and as heated by the sun the snakes bask beneath them.) Two young adders were found in 2014, nine last year.

### vi School visits

Mike described a very successful visit by a local school, but then said this is only for Hartley Wintney schools as lack of parking requires walking distance.

### vii Events / guided walks *details on RSPB website*

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/events-dates-and-inspiration/events/details.aspx?id=tcm:9-450140>

Saturday 12 May 5.15am to 7.15am Dawn Chorus Walk

Saturday 16 June 8pm Nightjars on the Heath

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Saturday 7 July – 11am to 1pm Summer Guided Walk for Butterflies

Friday 17 August – 8pm to 10pm Bat Walk

All events – £10 per adult, children under the age of 14 free, 20% discount for RSPB members or RSPB Volunteers, booking essential, no dogs.

**viii Questions / comments**

1. It should be possible to organise a Whitewater School visit from a base (maybe school premises) in Hartley Wintney?

2. At the November Parish Council Meeting, there were a number of angry residents unhappy that the RSPB was apparently not responding to complaints.

Mike said that no complaints had since been received. He was trying to improve communication as an ongoing process – articles in the *Whitewater Magazine*, via the Parish Council, the Consultative Group included representatives from the Commoners and from the Parish Council. Also the events and guided walks (though unfortunately no discounts for residents).

3. Re the parking provision opposite Arrow Drive. Four-by-fours often park so that few others can. HGVs use the lay-by for overnight parking.

This is Hart's side – contact Adam Green.

4. Speeding traffic on B3011

Mike agreed with the problems of speed on the B3011 and commented on Highways reluctance to reduce the speed limit. It was generally agreed that incidents should be logged whenever possible. Most accidents are not reported.

5. Dates and actions

Next meeting of the HHCG is in May.

Mike will provide an article for June issue *Whitewater Magazine*, copy date 1st May.

**3. MEETING CLOSED**

*The Chairman closed the Assembly at 8pm with thanks to all present.*

For signature ..... Date .....