

Fleet Study Group

Minutes of the 70th meeting of the Fleet Study Group held at West Yard, Abbotsbury
10th November 2000

Present: D.R. Seaward (Chair), C. Steele (Secretary, Dorset Environmental Records Centre), V. Copley (English Nature), P. Dyrinda (Swansea University), J. Hatcher (English Nature), G. LePard (Dorset County Council), B. Loveday (Dorset Wildlife Trust), D. Moxom (Ilchester Estates), P. O'Sullivan (University of Plymouth) G. Poole, D. Weeks (Ilchester Estates) and J. Whittaker (Natural History Museum)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

T. Badman (Dorset County Council), A. Carr, K. Coombe (School of Geog. Oxford University), S. Eden, J. Fitzpatrick, E. Green (Ilchester Estates), P. Sterling (Dorset County Council).

Good wishes were sent to Ken Coombe who was taken ill at the Symposium on the previous day.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted as a true record with two minor corrections:

- 9. c) "pro Fleet bed" should have read "proto Fleet bed"
- 11. Future meetings. 20th July 2001 Changes in the western limits of Chesil

3. MATTERS ARISING

Min. 1. Dr Wagner

DRS had written to Dr M Wagner offering condolences on behalf of the FSG, and received a letter of thanks.

Min. 5 Reports from Representative

Roxann and Side Scan Sonar. DRS has given coordinates of the search area off Chesil to BL.

A. Bruce has been in contact with a local trawlerman to arrange for JW and himself to visit the peat (coalstone) sites.

5. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

The Dorset Coast Forum Progress Report met on 18th when the subject for discussion was climatic change in Dorset. G Poole attended and gave a brief resume to the FSG. (Encl. 1)

6. 4TH SYMPOSIUM held on 9th NOVEMBER 2000

88 delegates had attended the Symposium held at Portland Heights Hotel. DM, PD, VC and BL were thanked for all their effort in organising and running the event so smoothly. DRS would write to thank the hotel.

DRS

The event had generated a small surplus which would be used to provide a copy of the Proceedings when published to each delegate, and further copies for sale.

GLP/DM

Authors of selected poster contributions have been asked to provide copies for the archives.

Inclusion of articles in the journal will be decided by an editorial committee (PD, VC, DRS, JW), although the final decisions rest with the editor of the Journal of Aquatic Conservation.

7. CURRENT and RECENTLY COMPLETED RESEARCH

- a) Archaeology. See attached notes from GLP (Encl. 2)
- b) Cores. POS has recently taken four Fleet bed cores from the Rodden Hive area. Each 50-80cm in length they will be used in student practicals. Further chemical analysis will be carried out by S. Kendrick (student).

8. RESEARCH PROPOSALS

a) Proposal for further palaeo-environmental research in the Fleet

At a pre-meeting POS had put forward his proposal for future research. A modified proposal is now in progress (Encl. 3), possibly suitable for ENTRUST funding. Match funding (10%) would need to be found, EN may be willing to make a contribution.

b) Other proposals.

FSG hoped the 4th Symposium would generate more proposals for Chesil and the Fleet.

9. FUNDING FOR SECRETARY

No further funding had been found for the secretary. VC offered to arrange for typing and distribution of the minutes. DRS asked for a volunteer to take notes at the meeting. VC offered for the March meeting. The Secretary was thanked for her help in the post since March 1998.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

23rd March 2001 at 2.30 pm, West Yard, Abbotsbury. Presentation: discussion on "Natural Change"

Those wishing to contribute, please send a short paragraph with comments to VC (see proposal attached to the Minutes of 28th July 2000). **ALL**

20th July 2000 DWT, Brooklands Farm. Presentation: Changes in the western limits of Chesil, by Geoff Poole.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

none

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