

Fleet Study Group

Minutes of the 84th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held on Friday 15th July 2005 at the Estate Office, West Yard, Abbotsbury, at 4.00 p.m.

The meeting followed on from the unveiling of the Alan Carr Memorial Stone on the crest of the Beach, near the Chesil Beach Centre. In view of the extended programme due to the dedication of the stone and the three presentations, some items were held over to the November meeting.

Present: John Whittaker (Chairman), Stuart Morris, Sue Eden, Dennis Seaward, Ed Harland, Don Moxom, Dave Wheeler, Bill Duane, Ken Coombe, Richard Edmonds, Patrick O'Sullivan, Richard Acornley, Rachel Waldock, Danuta Kochenowska.

Apologies: Jeanne FitzPatrick, Geoff Poole, Gordon Le Pard, Marcus Scrase.

Minutes of last meeting (18th March 2005): Accepted as a true record.

Matters arising (except those specifically mentioned below): None.

Presentations: 1. Richard Acornley (Environmental Agency, South West Area) – “Water quality monitoring in the Fleet: Past, present and future”. A one-page Abstract of his talk is attached with these Minutes.

2. Rachel Waldock (English Nature, Slepe Farm) – “Fleet monitoring – a review”. Owing to unforeseen circumstances an Abstract is not available.

3. Kevin Donnelly (Abbotsbury) – “The Abbotsbury Heritage Project”. No Abstract provided but Kevin discussed several initiatives funded by the National Lottery. Of most interest to members was an archaeological investigation of the “causeway” known variously as The Monks’ Wall, the Broomway, Smugglers Road, etc., across the Fleet, near Shipmoor Point, Abbotsbury. He appealed for help in shallow coring, to help date the structure and investigate the associated environment of the site through time. Dr Alasdair Bruce has contacted Kevin subsequently and offered to undertake a coring programme in 2006.

Reports from representatives: 1. Joint Dorset Marine Committee (19th April 2005) – Lin Baldock attended the meeting and reported to the FSG.

2. Dorset Coast Forum (24th May 2005) – Ken Coombe attended the meeting and reported to the Group.

Proceedings of the IVth Fleet Symposium – This was to be published in a Special Issue of the journal *Aquatic Conservation*, comprising five papers. Unfortunately, the journal Editor was unable to maintain support for the publication and the author/joint authors of two of the proposed papers withdrew before they had been satisfactorily prepared for publication. Thus after many delays, and not inconsiderable preparatory editorial work, the project was terminated. It is hoped one of the papers (Bruce, Horne & Whittaker, on ostracods as monitoring tools) will be submitted separately to the same journal.

Memorial Plaque Appeal – John Whittaker asked for contributions to pay for the brass plaque that Don Moxom had had made for the Alan Carr Memorial Stone. Several generous donations were made and the full cost of the plaque and its engraving has now been paid for by the Fleet Study Group.

Future meetings and venues – the last few meetings have taken place at the estate Office, Abbotsbury, thanks to the good offices of Don Moxom. It has always been the Fleet Study Group's intention to meet at different venues, three times a year on the third Friday in the months of March, July and November. Previously we had met, free of charge, at the premises of other good friends and supporters of the FSG, viz. Dorset Wildlife Trust, Brooklands, County Hall, Dorchester, and English Nature, Slepe Farm. Unfortunately, it is now impossible to park at County Hall, Dorchester, we have recently been given backward, twice, at short notice at Brooklands (it is, after all, their meeting room) and Slepe Farm, though welcoming, is "remote". Further discussions on the venue problem will take place at a future meeting.

Any other business – none recorded.