

# VINE AGM (2013-2014)

## followed by Steering Group meeting

on 22 October 2014 by teleconference

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### **Attendees**

John Bacon  
Adam Cormack (The Wildlife Trusts)  
Bill Grayson  
Kay Haw (The Woodland Trust)  
Chris Howarth (Natural England)  
Sophie Lake (Footprint Ecology)  
Peter Phillipson (TellTale)  
Pat Vincent (Greenmantle)

### **Apologies (SG & members)**

Rob Cunningham (RSPB)  
Joyce Gilbert  
Tim Kemp  
Lindsay Mackinlay (National Trust for Scotland)  
Matthew Oates (National Trust)

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Evening birch, Rhinog Fawr – Mike Alexander

## AGM 2013 - 2014

1. All attendees welcomed to the 2013-2014 AGM telephone conference
2. Chairs report tabled and adopted (see [http://www.vineproject.org.uk/project\\_documents.html](http://www.vineproject.org.uk/project_documents.html))

3. Treasurer's report adopted (see as above). Current funds stand at £481.57. Annual commitments are roughly £182 for domain renewal and web hosting.
4. Audited accounts adopted.
5. Michael Parry was re-appointed as VINE's honorary auditor for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, and the group's thanks extended to Michael.
6. No nominations for new members of the Executive Committee (Steering Group) were received. Bill Grayson and Joyce Gilbert were unanimously voted onto the Steering Group for a further term of three years.
7. Two comments were received from VINE members. Charles Routh requested that we considered how best to use the electronic discussion forum for circulating petitions. Lindsay Mackinlay suggested that VINE was still much needed, and could we ask for a small voluntary annual subscription. Discussion of both was deferred to the Steering Group meeting.

### Steering Group meeting

- The option for **voluntary annual subscription** was discussed. It was agreed to ask members for a voluntary subscription (e.g. £10) to be paid via the Paypal facility on the website.

#### SL to draft an email to members

- **Website hosting.** Our current bank balance means we can maintain the website for another two years. JB generously offered to fund the website in future if needed. AC suggested he could also approach TWT.
- **VINE activities** - JB noted that VINE is only ticking over at present.

#### PP offered to talk to TK about continuing (or not) the VINE seeds

- **Consultations** - VINE continues to respond to consultations, to which it is felt VINE adds a much-needed ethical dimension. The SG would like follow up information about biodiversity offsetting.

#### AC to find out about where things are with biodiversity offsetting, what decisions have been made.

#### ALL to let SG know when consultations crop up that VINE may wish to respond to.

- **Website & contacts**

#### KH and RC to send short CV paragraph to SL for website

#### SL to circulate updated SG contacts list, ALL to check and update as needed.

- **Future of VINE** - although VINE is barely ticking over, there was support for continuing to "hold the space" as various members of the SG still found it useful. AC raised the point that VINE-type discussion were now occurring via social media (although this is not reflected in VINE's twitter interactions). The forum in particular has periods of activity. It was agreed that direct action (e.g. signing petitions or writing emails/letters) balances the more thoughtful aspect to VINE, but that consideration of the relevance of petitions to VINE should be given before electronic petitions were circulated. KH noted that the Woodland Trust have a large room that could be used free of charge for meetings and events. PV commented that VINE's relevance is perhaps increasing, but that it needs to be known about at a higher level throughout organisations.

#### ALL to seed relevant discussions on the VINE electronic forum from time to time

#### SL to link to twitter as relevant

ALL to raise profile of VINE at any opportunity - SL to take stand to National Heathland Conference

PV to send round idea about a real life VINE meeting while undertaking reserve management for Greenmantle, with the income generated being donated to VINE

- **Elections of officers** JB, PV and SL were re-elected to the posts of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

*We should think of our present problems as the most singular opportunity for greatness that has ever been offered to any generation in any civilisation in all of human history. If we fail to receive that opportunity, to act on it, then my feeling is we will become the most vilified generation that has ever lived...However, if we act, we'll become heroes of whom our descendants will boast until the end of all history.*

Roger Payne, biologist