

## THE POND AT SUTTON POYNTZ

MEETING AT THE PONDSIDE ON 18 NOVEMBER 1999

PRESENT: Julia Allen Tony Bugler Richard Meech Maureen Morris (Sutton Poyntz Society), Rick Slatter (WPBC), Bronwen Bruce (Dorset Wildlife Trust), Sean (DWT), and a representative from Environment Agency.

### THE UNCUT FRINGE

Advised that at certain areas of the pond fringe the grass should be left longer to protect and hide the water voles. Agreed by RS that those verges could be left longer (this does not include the verges under the willow trees, where visitors tend to gather.)

### MANAGEMENT OF THE WILLOWS

WPBC have a management scheme and the proposal is to thin them eventually to four trees, which will then be regularly pollarded, which will help to increase their height. The general opinion from RS and the Environment Agency is that the leaves are not toxic, though it is agreed that they take a long time to break down.

### GOLDFISH

Only a few there now; agreed to let them die off and not replace them. Agreed that there is a need to encourage invertebrates (dragonfly larvae etc) to flourish in the pond.

### SILT LEVELS

BB will ask Wessex Water to use their machinery to dredge the pond again and it is also necessary to contact farmers/landowners to allow sludge to be dumped.

It was noted that the ducks are now fed on the pond rather than elsewhere, the result being more debris and more ducks, particularly the wild mallards. (40-50 at last count).

### WILLOW BIO-ENGINEERING

DWT are willing to put in "spikes and faggots" mto enable planting of pond-side plants which will also protect the edges. Money is available to finance this and labour is also available (Sean and volunteers).

No action need be taken at the shallow (north) end of the pond.