

SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

MINUTES OF 2021 AGM

HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2021 AT 7.30PM BY ONLINE ZOOM FORMAT.

(25 Attending)

Item

1.0 APOLOGIES

None received.

2.0 MINUTES OF LAST AGM

No comments had been received on the previous AGM Minutes. The Minutes of the previous AGM dated 05/11/2021 were adopted as a true record proposed by Mike Rutherford and seconded by John Ferguson.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGM

3.1 No matters arising

4.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

4.1 Membership

SWT membership of Central Borders Group remains stable.

4.2 Outings

The 2020 outings were cancelled due to the Covid 19 lock down restrictions. The situation is being kept under review but CBG currently has no walks planned for 2021. This may change later in the year.

4.3 Talks

The 2020/21 face to face talks were all cancelled due to the Covid 19 lock down restrictions. As with the outings, the situation is being kept under review but CBG currently has no face-to-face talks planned for 2021.

However, CBG has been using Zoom for a few online CBG presentations such as Philip Munro's South of Scotland Golden Eagle Reinforcement Project presentation and Vice Chair Mike Rutherford's presentation on Innerleithen Woods. SWT HQ have been organising national presentations 'hosted' by local groups on their Webinar platform which have proved highly successful in reaching a wider audience. CBG recently 'hosted' one of these, a presentation by Derek Robeson of Tweed Forum on Integrated Catchment Management and the Work of Tweed Forum.

CBG has now subscribed to Zoom Pro which will allow us more time for online presentations rather than the restricted 40 minutes with Zoom Free. The committee is planning further CBG local presentations over the next few months.

4.4 Reserves

Bemersyde Reserve

Rotten boards on boardwalk have been replaced.

Gordon Moss Reserve

Nothing to report.

Hare Moss

A felling licence has been obtained by AgriForest, at the request of the landowner and SWT HQ, for tree felling Hare Moss with authority to commence from September 2021 being given by SWT HQ. Actual date to be confirmed. This will include all the Sitka in the area opposite the A7 and the majority of the Sitka on the north side of the lochan. Access will be from the field off the A7. The SWT Management Plan objective for Hare Moss is to increase the amount of semi-natural habitat on the site with the removal of the planted conifers. There are only tiny areas of semi-natural habitat of this type in the Borders where most land is given over to agriculture and forestry. The ecological benefit in removing the remaining trees in one 'harvesting' operation will allow the areas to be re-planted with appropriate deciduous trees allowing natural vegetation regeneration to commence in one season. This method has been successfully carried out by SWT at other reserves, such as Bemersyde Moss and Pease Dean.

Lindean

No progress to report from SBC on the proposed replacement hide.

4.5 Presentations

Lisa McLeish recently gave an online talk to Selkirk Brownies on behalf of the CBG, focusing on local wildlife around The Haining at Selkirk.

4.7 Funds

Central Borders Group funding stream has been disrupted with the Covid 19 restrictions on face-to-face events. More Details to come on our funds under the Treasurer's Report.

Summary of Eildon Book sales

Booklet sales during 2020 = 41 (165 (2019); 195 (2018)).

Total costs of production of 1800 booklets = £2078

Total income from sale of 1025 booklets = £3117

c. 770 booklets left in stock (held by MKL). Potential income from these = £2000+

The 2020 TESCO collection did not happen, and a 2021 date is looking unlikely at the moment, due to Covid 19 restrictions.

(See item 6.0 for Treasurer's Report.

4.8 Planning Reviews

We continue to carry out reviewing planning applications monthly, commenting when we feel it is appropriate.

4.9 Facebook

CBG's Facebook page continues to attract a broad range of visitors. The page is public and can be viewed without having a facebook account.

5.0 Chair's Thanks

Time for some personal thanks at the end of my third and final year as Chair:

Thanks to Kate Bisset who is standing down after being a committee member since 2015.

Thanks to Tricia Wylie who is standing down after being a committee member since 2018.

Thanks to Eric Middleton for organising the winter talks during my time on committee and, to Myra for working with Eric on raffle duties at our winter talks that have been a vital part in CBG's fundraising over the years.

Thanks to Jim Russell for planning and organising our summer events during my time on committee...including getting to grips with associated Risk Assessments.

Thanks to Dawn Spark particularly for volunteer work, especially at Hare Moss.

My thanks go to John Ferguson as Treasurer for his continued work for the group.

My thanks go to committee member Lucy Hoad who has, unfortunately, had to stand down from committee due to family care commitments.

Thanks go to Malcolm Lindsay on behalf of all CBG members. Malcolm has been involved with the group for many years, with earlier times on committee and as Chair in the 1980s

and more recently as Chair for 6 years and Secretary for 7 years. Malcolm has devoted much time and energy to the success of the group and has continued in the role as Secretary for an extra year more than he intended to help ensure continuity during the pandemic.

Working with SWT HQ during my time in office has been a wonderful experience in broadening my knowledge and appreciating the work that the Trust does. For a relatively small organisation it punches above its weight on a national level in my opinion. Representing SWT and CBG on local forums and groups has made me more aware of what we have, and to what is going on, in our area which has made me conclude that working together is crucial.

I would like to pass on my best wishes and encouragement to Mike as our new Chair, to Lisa as our new Secretary and Michelle as our new Vice Chair. You are taking over at a very strange time in all our lives with the Coronavirus pandemic restrictions, when we are having to question how best to keep groups such as ours running in new ways in an ever-changing set of circumstances. I am confident that the new committee team will bring knowledge, enthusiasm and effort to addressing the challenges and taking the group to what will perhaps be a new 'normal'.

6.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

John Ferguson has provided an Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March 2021 which has been available on the Central Borders Group website.

Our thanks go to Chris Whitmore who has independently checked the accounts.

Net assets were £2,498.37 at APRIL 2021

£1,835.69 in the Royal Bank of Scotland
£662.68 in the Skipton Building Society

Deficit -£456.31

I can pass on John's comments on the figures....

Items to note under INCOME are:

Donation from the Peebles Wildlife Talks Group £100

Items to note under EXPENDITURE are:

Donation to SWT HQ £500

The deficit of -£456.31 roughly equates to our donation to SWT HQ.

The report proposed for adoption by Malcolm Lindsay and seconded by Alison Smith.

7.0 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Mike Rutherford	Chair from 2021	Proposed by Alison Smith Seconded by Malcolm Lindsay
Michelle Stamp	Vice Chair from 2021	Proposed by Alison Smith Seconded by Lisa McLeish
Lisa McLeish	Secretary from 2021	Proposed by Kate Bisset Seconded by Mike Rutherford
John Ferguson	Treasurer from pre-2004	requires re-election 2022
Eric Middleton	C. Member from pre-2004	requires re-election 2022

Jim Russell	C. Member from 2012 requires re-election 2024	Proposed by Alison Smith Seconded by Malcolm Lindsay
Dawn Spark	C. Member from 2019	requires re-election 2022
Alison Smith	Standing down	
Malcolm Lindsay	Standing down	
Kate Bissett	Standing down	
Tricia Wylie	Standing down	
Lucy Hoad	Standing down	

7.0 AOCB

Outgoing secretary Malcolm Lindsay gave thanks to Alison Smith and remotely presented her with a book voucher as a token of the committee's appreciation.

Incoming Chair Mike Rutherford gave thanks to Alison Smith for all her work over the last few years and applauded her adaptability during the lock-downs. He also thanks Malcolm Lindsay, Kate Bissett, Tricia Wylie and Lucy Hoad for their work as committee members. He then appealed to all members to come forward with ideas, offers of help and/or willingness to join the committee.

There being no further business Alison Smith thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.