

SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

NOTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 19th July 2018 7.00pm

Langlee Community Centre

Present

Malcolm Lindsay (ML)
Kate Bisset (KB)
Tricia Wyllie (TW)
John Ferguson (JF)
Eric Middleton (EM)
Alison Smith (AS)

Apologies

Louise Wallace (LW)
Jim Russell (JR)
Lawrence Robertson (LR)
Julian Warman (JW)

Item		Action
1.0	PRESENT & APOLOGIES See above.	
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES OF MEETING	
2.1	Hare Moss & Dunhog Moss (1.1) Noted that two trailer loads of logs had been removed from north side of Hare Moss by Dawn and Stuart, CBG members, as discussed with JW and landowner.	
2.2	(1.2) Noted that the 13 nest boxes at Hare Moss had been monitored by AS with one Blue Tit, two Wren, one Dunnock and one Great Tit nests to report. Spotted Flycatcher eggs in the open box at seat had been abandoned for some reason.	
2.3	(1.3) Noted that the TWIC Small Mammal Trapping Workshop at Hare Moss and then The Haining had taken place with a surprising 'no luck' on the 50 traps set out at Hare Moss. However, the talk and owl pellet dissection at the Haining had been enjoyable.	
2.4	(1.4) Noted that JW was investigating repair work for the 'island' at Hare Moss for later in the year.	JW
2.5	(1.5) Noted that willow planting carried out by work party at Hare Moss last year had a few failures which were to be replaced when JW had a larger bulk order for trees.	JW
2.6	(1.6) Noted that further brash burning at north side of loch was to be considered for later in the year.	JW/AS
2.7	(1.7) Noted that boardwalk had been extended on path to hide at Hare Moss over very muddy section. JW had provided material costs for this and the fence repair on the A7 with payment to be reimbursed by CBG when the costs for the hide roof repairs came through.	JW
2.8	First Aid Certificates (1.8) Noted that JW had assisted CBG by raising the matter again with SWT HQ on the requirement, or not, for a person with a First Aid Certificate on CBG outings and events. The response was still not definitive but, in the meantime, TW and LR had undergone training which meant CBG now had 3 First Aid Certified members. This should allow at least one of the three (AS, TW and LR), to be in attendance at future outings and events. AS thanked TW and LR for undergoing the training, provided by SWT HQ, on behalf of CBG.	

- 2.9 **Office Bearers & Committee**
 (1.0) Noted that there was currently no Vice Chair and that ML was to carry on as Secretary for a further 2 years. Agreed that it was important to find a Vice Chair as soon as possible who would be prepared to then become Chair after AS. **AS**
- 2.10 **TESCO Collection**
 (1.10) Noted that LR had reported to AS that the May date for applications to TESCO for collection date had been missed with an application to be made at next available date in August. **LR**
- 2.11 **Eildon Hills Booklet**
 (1.11) Noted that LR had obtained costs for a new print run of the Eildon Booklet of £785 for 800 copies. ML had been giving further consideration to the number required, on the basis of the current edition running for a further 6-8 years, and proposed that a run of 1000 could be needed. This was agreed with a few 'typos' to be identified and the existing Foreword by Robin Harper amended to read "Former Chairman". **ML/LR**
- Noted that sales were now mainly through local retail outlets. Agreed that Borders Book Festival should be considered as an outlet in 2019. **ML/LR**
- 2.12 **Laptop**
 (1.12) Noted that the newly acquired CBG laptop had been loaded with an anti-virus software package by ML with his costs, including annual subscription, to be reimbursed by CBG. **ML/JF**
- 2.13 **Live Borders Science Festival**
 (1.13) Noted that LR had joined Nick Wright from SWT HQ on the SWT stand with family events at Wilton Lodge Park Hawick as part of the Live Borders Science Festival on 26th May 2018. LR had reported that this had gone very well.
- 2.14 **Evening Talks - Announcements**
 (1.14) Agreed that a 'sightings' slot be introduced at all evening talk intervals and that announcements of talks by other relevant local organisations be put up as visual display before the talk, as had been done previously. TW suggested that members' photographs, sent to AS in advance, could be collated and presented as a Power Point slideshow before the talks and at the interval. Agreed to pursue this later in year in terms of requesting material from members. **ML/AS**
- 2.16 **Funding**
 (3.1) Noted that CBG had been approached by SBC for a contribution to a new hide at Lindean. (See item 15.0)
- 2.17 **Outings**
 (5.1) Noted that the Hirsell, Lindean Loch and Chisholme Estate walks had taken place. Sarah Eno's contribution at Lindean and Chisholme had been well received by those attending. ML's moth trapping results from the preceding night at Chisholme had enthralled everyone.
- (5.2) Noted that there was a SWT HQ Volunteer Outings & Activities Form which should be completed by attendees giving names, addresses and next of kin details. AS had been dealing with these and would ensure they were available on the next walk and made available to any future walk leaders. **AS**
- It was felt by the committee that this form, provided by HQ, should say "Contact

Tel. Number” not “Next of Kin Tel. Contact Number.

- 2.18 **Reserves**
(7.1) AS suggested that committee members consider visiting a specific CBG reserve between meetings for general discussion at the next meeting.
(Individually rather than a group outing.) Agreed that Bemersyde Reserve be selected this time. **AI**
- 2.19 **Volunteer Work Parties**
(8.1) Noted that ML had updated and refreshed the CBG Volunteer List.

(8.2) Noted that the new updated SWT HQ Volunteer Registration Forms had now been issued by HQ. These were Existing Volunteer and New Volunteer forms. (ML had received confirmation from HQ that ‘volunteers’ included office bearers and committee members.) The Existing Volunteer forms could be completed in paper format or online. ML to send e-mail out to all on CBG Volunteer list and committee members not present to request that they complete the forms in either format as requested by HQ. **ML**

(8.3) Noted that ML had provided KB with volunteer details.

(8.4) Noted that announcements about future work parties would be by notifying those on the updated volunteer list. **ML/KB**
- 2.20 **Volunteer Steering Group**
(9.1) Noted that LR had provided background on SWT HQ Volunteer Steering Group meetings which had been forwarded to committee members.

AS noted an item which referred to local groups eventually being able to send e-updates to all members in their area. This is what CBG had been doing until the current centralising of all e-mail communications under the new data protection measures.

AS noted a reference to making better use of university students as volunteers and wondered if more contact should be made by CBG with Heriot Watt University, Galashiels campus, and Borders College. **AS**
- 2.21 **Data protection**
(10.1) Noted that the new Data Protection Act was now in force with SWT HQ holding all CBG members data.

Noted that there were some initial problems with the new communication system via HQ. HQ had reported that only 200 CBG members (c 30%) had consented to ongoing email communication. ML/AS thought that the recent consent process had been confused and that many CBG members may have dropped their consent without intending to do so. ML/AS were discussing this and other problems, (e.g. the lack of progress with local group welcome letters to new members), with HQ. **ML/AS**

ML had received response from HQ to his query on post codes constituting CBG membership which was TD1-TD9. The Peebles members who had been attending CBG talks were now excluded under this definition.

It was felt at the meeting that HQ should consider putting an item in the next magazine issue notifying members of the situation and inviting them to consent to being on the new HQ data list if they had not already done so.
- 2.22 **Planning Review Updates**
(11.1) Agreed that CBG could invite members to contact AS if concerned about a particular application. **ML/AS**

2.23	Facebook AS invited committee members to submit items for posting.	All
2.24	SWT Events (15.1) Noted that SWT AGM and Members' Day was to be held on 22 nd September at Chambers Street Museum Edinburgh. Booking forms were included in the recent magazine and online.	
2.25	Golden Eagle Project (16.1) Noted that South of Scotland Golden Eagle Reinforcement project news was being posted on Facebook page by AS when available.	
2.26	St. Boswells School (16.3) Noted that KB had attended St. Boswells Primary School, representing CBG, and had given a talk and then led a walk in the community wood with around 40 children aged 6-10 years old. KB felt it had been a very enjoyable and successful event.	
2.27	Jedburgh Guides (16.4) Noted that the approach made to CBG by Jedburgh Guides Group on a project focusing on local environment had not come to anything despite AS arranging a provisional date to chat to the Guide Leader.	
2.28	Education List (16.5) No action had been taken to date on LR's proposed list of members willing to carry out educational input.	All
2.29	CBG Facebook Access (16.6) Agreed that access to the CBG Facebook page should be the subject of a further demonstration before a talk as the CBG web page link had changed since the last demonstration.	AS
3.0	TREASURER'S REPORT JF reported that there was £3671.72 in the main Bank Account and £600 in the Building Society Account. Noted that the Bank Account was now managed through the Galashiels branch. ML handed over cheques to JF for payment into CBG account.	
4.0	FUNDING No further matters.	
5.0	PUBLICATIONS No further matters.	
6.0	OUTINGS The last walk was to be at Harestanes and Monteviot lead by JR. Noted that ML and possibly KB would be attending to provide some expertise during the walk. AS/ML were to contact JR to confirm the proposed content and route.	ML/AS
7.0	TALKS The following possibilities had been mentioned for 2019/2020: Hugh Chalmers or Derek Robeson - Tweed Forum on their work Philip Munro - Officer South of Scotland Golden Eagle Reinforcement Project AS handed EM details of Rebecca Crawford from Butterfly Conservation who had contacted ML regarding a 'Bog Squad' project with the offer of a talk.	

Other suggestions were Dr. Adrian Sumner on molluscs and Graeme Wilson from TWIC on small mammals.

8.0 RESERVES

JW had provided AS with CBG reserve report:

Hare Moss

Hide roof repairs to be carried out soon and island repairs being considered.

Bemersyde

Meeting arranged with owner and SNH to discuss open water in front of hide on 7th August.

Roadside tree safety work being undertaken by Dalkeith Team.

Report on Owl boxes put up by Tim Chamberlain (1 Barn Owl, 1 Tawny Owl and 2 Long-eared Owl) in 2015: Barn Owl box occupied, Tawny Owl box empty, Long-eared Owl baskets removed as not in good location.

Whitlaw Wood

Trees cleared from boundary fence and small patch of Japanese Knotweed (growing on neighbours land close to reserve) treated with Glyphosate.

Some of the planning infringements on land between housing at Burnflat Brae and Whitlaw Wood have been reversed – this included residents' using part of the area to extend their gardens with structures such as greenhouses constructed, when the land is meant to be a buffer zone between local housing development and the woodland.

Yetholm Loch (not CBG area)

Current management agreement with 3 owners of the reserve ends July 2019.

JW has written to owners to ask them if they wish to enter into another management agreement with SWT when current one ends.

Continuing control of American Skunk Cabbage.

9.0 VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

Noted that AS was initiating a small work party to pull out willow herb around the saplings for Saturday 4th August at 10.30am. AS to provide text for ML to send out e-mail to volunteers with responses to go to KB.

AS
ML/KB

10.0 DATA PROTECTION

No further matters.

11.0 PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE

AS reported that there had been two e-mails from members of the public regarding advice on wildlife matters in relation to planning applications. These had been in the Berwickshire Group area and AS had passed them on to David Long as their new Chair. It was noted and agreed that whilst the monthly Planning Review was carried out by CBG and forwarded to organisations and individuals outwith SWT CBG it was not providing a service to comment or object on behalf of others.

12.0 TWEED FORUM UPDATE

Noted that AS had received and forwarded to CBG committee members communications from Tweed Forum regarding a SEPA project for a new Solway Tweed river basin planning consultation and a paper on cost-benefit analysis of afforestation as a climate change adaptation measure to reduce flood risk.

13.0 FACEBOOK

No further matters.

14.0 SWT AGM & MEMBERS' DAY

No further matters.

15.0 LINDEAN BIRD HIDE

A request from SBC that SWT CBG contribute funding for a replacement hide at Lindean Loch was discussed. AS had received comments back from committee members and Douglas Methven and David Parkinson, who represent SWT CBG on Lindean Reservoir Management Group. It was noted that SBC own Lindean Reserve.

Noted that AS and KB had recently visited the new Hule Moss hide with the only criticisms being the lack of robust hinge fixings on the outward opening door, (a real problem with wind catching door), and the viewing slot openings being too high for looking out of when seated at the benches.

Widespread support was noted for the proposal. The provision of a new hide rather than repair/refurbishment of the existing hide, (understood to be 30 years old), was discussed. Viewing problems were noted from the existing hide due to vegetation growth since it had been moved to this location from the opposite side of the loch some years ago. The consensus was that CBG should confirm funding support in principle to SBC with a preference that the new hide be located further west to improve the view of the water. (Limitations on location nearer the water edge were understood due to its SSSI designation.) Agreed that it should be made clear that SBC would be responsible for the design, costings, erection and maintenance of the hide. AS to write to Keith Robeson, SBC, on this basis.

AS

16.0 AOCB

16.1 AS suggested that the Notes of Meeting should be available to CBG members. Agreed that these should be posted on the CBG website.

AS/ML

16.2 AS reported receiving a call from a Galashiels resident who had a badger sett on his property and had become aware of tampering with the sett entrances. AS had checked with SWT HQ and had informed the resident that he should report the matter through 101 to the Police Wildlife Crime Unit.

16.3 AS reported receiving a call from a Hawick Vet who had been handed in a dead Red Squirrel and was enquiring if SWT was still undertaking post mortems on dead Red Squirrels. AS had referred the Vet to SWT HQ.

16.4 ML reported that CBG had been asked to give a talk at Leitholm WI. Agreed that ML was to respond and accept the invitation.

ML

16.5 EM raised the possibility of reintroducing 'Bird Bus' trips to reserves outwith the CBG area along the lines he had organised in the past. EM was to establish current costs for buses with interest to be established at the first evening talk.

**EM
AS/ML**

17.0 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be held on THURSDAY 18th OCTOBER 2018 at Langlee Community Centre at 7.00pm. GREEN ROOM

CIRCULATION

Malcolm Lindsay
John Ferguson
Kate Bisset
Louise Wallace
Lawrence Robertson
Tricia Wyllie
Eric Middleton
Jim Russell
Alison Smith
Julian Warman

Alison Smith 23/07/2018

