

# SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

## NOTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 7.00pm

Langlee Community Centre

### Present

Malcolm Lindsay (ML)  
Julian Warman (JW)  
Louise Wallace (LW)  
John Ferguson (JF)  
Tricia Wyllie (TW)  
Anne Hogarth (AH)  
Eric Middleton (EM)  
Lucy Hoad (LH)  
Alison Smith (AS)

### Apologies

Jim Russell (JR)  
Dawn Spark (DS)  
Kate Bisset (KB)

Item		Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>PRESENT &amp; APOLOGIES</b>	
1.1	See above.	
1.2	AS introduced Lucy Hoad to the meeting and agreed that she be co-opted onto Committee.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES OF MEETING</b>	
2.1	Noted that Jim Russell had been omitted from the list of committee members under item 2.2 with an apology sent to him by AS	
2.2	(2.2) Noted that there was still no Vice Chair.	AS
2.3	(2.3) Agreed that LW contact TESCO and/or Lawrence Robertson to establish when the 2020 collection date should be applied for.	LW
2.4	(2.4) Noted that KB's photographs were to be shown at the start and interval of the first autumn talk.	KB
2.5	(2.5) Noted that AS had forwarded SWT HQ's "Strategic Review of Volunteering – Recommendations" to committee members.  Noted that there was a SWT Volunteer Event Day scheduled at Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre on Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> July for any members to attend.	
2.6	(2.6) Agreed not to contact the SWT 'Young Leaders'.	
2.7	(2.7) Noted that a demonstration on access to the CBG Facebook page would be part of the presentation by AS as part of the winter talk series.	AS
2.8	(2.8) Noted that EM was still to establish current costs for buses in relation to a possible 'Bird Bus' trip in 2020.	EM
2.9	(2.9) Noted that Greener Borders Group had again raised the question of CBG involvement and in negotiating dates for events to avoid clashes with SWT dates. AS had copied committee members in on the e-mail correspondence prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was agreed to respond to Greener Borders confirming that SWT talks would remain, as the longstanding arrangement, on the second Thursday of the month at Langlee CC.	AS/ML

2.10	See 7.1.	
2.11	(2.12) Noted that no potential local composter companies had been identified in relation to the removal of cuttings from Whitlaw Wood Reserve. JW was to approach SBC.	<b>JW</b>
2.12	(2.13) Noted that SWT HQ were still working on templates for welcome e-mails to new members from Local Groups.	<b>AS/ML</b>
2.13	(2.14) Noted that sustainable products were to continue to be presented at the winter talks with attendees to be encouraged to bring their own cups.	
2.14	(2.15) Noted that Stuart Craig was proposing to carry out a bird ringing event at Hare Moss on Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> /Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June OR Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> / Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 depending on weather forecasts. AS had contacted Stuart to confirm the date in order that members could be informed. ML to carry out moth trapping to coincide with this if weather suitable.	<b>AS ML</b>
2.15	(6.2) Noted that a Fungi Survey was arranged with Borders Fungus Group at Hare Moss on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2019. Details to be sent to members nearer the time.	<b>AS</b>
2.16	(8.2) Noted that AS had taken AH and DS to Gordon Moss to show them the location of the reserve and routes within it.	
2.17	(9.1) See item 9.0.	
2.18	(17.3) See item 17.0.	
2.19	(19.1) Noted that AS had met with Nick Wright, SWT HQ staff member, and Shona Malcolm from Borders Campus, to confirm details for the annual SWT AGM to be held at Borders Campus on 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2019. AS and AH to consider possible walks from the venue following lunch and confirm to Nick Wright.	<b>AS/AH</b>
	Noted that CBG had been requested to provide a 'slideshow' of local reserves, and items of interest, for showing prior to the AGM and to consider delivering a 10 minute presentation on CBG.	<b>AS +?</b>
	AS requested that committee members be available, if possible, on the day to represent CBG.	<b>All</b>
	AS to enquire if Eildon Booklets could be on sale at the event.	<b>AS</b>
2.20	(20.0) Noted that the follow up walk at Philiphaugh Primary School P4/5 had not been rearranged. TW thought it would be unlikely to happen now being so near the end of term.	<b>KB/TW</b>
2.21	(21.0) Noted that AS had given a presentation to Momentum Borders Charity, a brain injury service, with a follow up walk at Hare Moss being arranged.	<b>AS</b>
2.22	(22.0)Noted that AS had managed to contact the leader of the Stow SWT Watch Group, which was temporarily shut down due to ill health, and agreed that a link with CBG be formed when appropriate.	<b>AS</b>
2.23	(23.0) Noted that Pip Tabor, Southern Upland Partnership, had sent out draft notes of the 'Environmental Get Together' of environmental groups in the Borders discussing concerns with the Borderlands and South of Scotland Economic Partnership initiatives. AS had forwarded these to Dougie Peedle,	

Head of Policy at SWT HQ to enquire if future representation at meetings should involve SWT HQ staff as it covered the whole of the Scottish Borders. DP had confirmed that this would be the case if staff resources allowed it.

- 2.24 (24.0) Noted that no approach had been made to the Clark Woodland Trust in relation to funding assistance with the Lindean hide as, to date, no figures were available from SBC.

### **3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 3.1 JF reported the following:

Bank Account £3280.01

Skipton BS Account £644.59

- 3.2 Noted that JF had presented accounts at the AGM.

### **4.0 FUNDING**

No current matters.

### **5.0 PUBLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Noted that 911 Eildon Booklets had now been sold, 93 since January, with all sales now in profit.

### **6.0 OUTINGS**

- 6.1 Noted that the Spottiswoode walk event had gone well with 27 attendees. The Middletoun Farm walk was to take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> June.

### **7.0 TALKS**

- 7.1 (2.10 & 7.1) Noted that EM had mislaid addresses for speakers Tim Duffy and Reuben Singleton. ML to e-mail them details of the syllabus dates.

**ML**

### **8.0 RESERVES**

- 8.1 JW gave a local reserves report:

#### **Hare Moss**

Hare Moss 'island' temporary repairs had proved successful in terms of swan nest building with a first clutch of eggs being laid but unfortunately suspected of being predated by an Otter. The second clutch had resulted in one cygnet now being seen on the water.

JW explained a proposal to investigate the commercial viability, and feasibility, of felling the remaining trees at Hare Moss in one operation rather than undertaking smaller sections with issues of stacking logs and brash. The farmer landowner had confirmed he was happy for the feasibility exercise to be undertaken.

Concern was expressed regarding the resultant exposure of the hide on the A7 side if all the trees were felled. JW explained that the intention was to allow the completion of the long term project to remove the non-native Sitka and continue the ongoing planting of indigenous trees to extend the natural willow carr habitat on the site. Thick edge hedge type planting and possible brash areas could be used to screen the hide from the A7.

JW offered to meet with DS to discuss the proposals.

#### **Dunhog Moss (SSSI)**

A possible moth trapping exercise was discussed at Dunhog Moss by ML. Transport of the equipment up to Dunhog was discussed. JW suggested that an approach could be made to the farmer for his help.

**ML/  
AS**

**Whitlaw Wood**

See item 2.11 on grass cutting removal.

JW noted that there was evidence of ash die-back at the site.

**Gordon Moss (SSSI)**

JW ensuring that the clearings were being managed.

**Din Moss & Hoselaw Loch (SSSI)**

Nothing to report.

**Yetholm (SSSI)**

Skunk cabbage still being removed.

Lease coming up for renewal in July 2019 still being negotiated.

**Bemersyde (SSSI)**

JW reported that it was unlikely that SWT would proceed with the herbicide (Glyphosate) treatment to remove aquatic vegetation outside hide.

**9.0 VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES**

9.1 Further Hare Moss willow replacement planting had been carried out by JW. Hare Moss annual litter pick work party had gone well with less bags than previous years.

**10.0 DATA PROTECTION**

10.1 See item 2.13.

**11.0 PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE**

11.1 AS reported that regular planning application reviews were ongoing with the following applications worthy of note:  
Cummings Hill – Forestry track application ongoing. Noted that Butterfly Conservation had been requested to comment by applicant’s consultant for a Forestry Grant Scheme for the site outwith the planning process.

11.2 Noted that LH had kindly offered to assist AS with future planning reviews.

**12.0 TWEED FORUM UPDATE**

12.1 Next meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to include a farm visit following the meeting. Noted that AS to attend on this occasion with future representation by LH or AS. **AS**

**13.0 SBC LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (LBAP)**

13.1 No current matters to report.

**14.0 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES (LBS)**

14.1 No progress to report on SBC informing landowners.

**15.0 SCOTTISH FORESTRY STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

15.1 Noted that a “Draft Corporate Plan - Delivering Forests and land that Scotland can be proud of 2019-2022” by the newly established Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) was out for consultation with responses due by early July. AS had contacted SWT HQ on this with confirmation received that HQ were working together with other organisations to respond. HQ had agreed to keep CBG informed on the response. **AS**

**16.0 LINDEAN BIRD HIDE**

16.1 No progress to report other than sketch of proposed design which was circulated at the meeting.

**17.0 LANGLEE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

17.1 Noted that JF had been unable to attend the recent LCC meeting but was to forward the minutes of the meeting when received.

JF

**18.0 ABBOTSFORD EVENT**

18.1 Noted that CBG had manned a stand at the Abbotsford Spring Event with gratefully received help from Nick Wright from HQ. The numbers had been lower than hoped for due to weather and possibly the routing of visitors. CBG had responded to Abbotsford's feedback request. It was anticipated that this would be an annual event.

**19.0 HARESTANES APPLE DAY**

19.1 Noted that Harestanes Apple Day participation by CBG could not be discussed due to no dates being set for events so far due to management changes.

**20.0 BORDERS UNION SHOW SCHOOLS DAY**

20.1 Noted that this event had taken place. AS suggested that CBG could consider having an input in 2020 if more details were obtained. Concern was expressed over overstressing resources. JW confirmed that Nick Wright/Catherine Leatherland at SWT HQ could be approached for input at such events if given sufficient notice.

**21.0 AOCB**

21.1 LW reported that there was to be an Open Night for the Scottish Borders 25<sup>th</sup> Walking Festival in the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Selkirk with relevant local group stands. CBG to consider input at the event.

All

21.2 AS reported on three individual enquiries that had been received requesting advice from CBG on tree planting/wildlife habitat management. As CBG was not in a position to provide professional advice, and SWT HQ were not sufficiently resourced to undertake such requests, AS had referred the enquiries to Tweed Forum having discussed them with Derek Robeson, Tweed Forum.

**23.0 NEXT MEETING**

**The next meeting date is to be confirmed.**

**24.0 CIRCULATION**

Malcolm Lindsay  
John Ferguson  
Kate Bisset  
Louise Wallace  
Tricia Wyllie  
Eric Middleton  
Jim Russell  
Anne Hogarth  
Dawn Spark  
Lucy Hoad  
Alison Smith  
Julian Warman

*Alison Smith 11/06/2019*