

SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

NOTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 29th August 2019 7.00pm

Langlee Community Centre

Present

Malcolm Lindsay (ML)
Julian Warman (JW)
Louise Wallace (LW)
John Ferguson (JF)
Tricia Wyllie (TW)
Eric Middleton (EM)
Lucy Hoad (LH)
Jim Russell (JR)
Dawn Spark (DS)
Kate Bisset (KB)
Alison Smith (AS)

Apologies

Item		Action
1.0	PRESENT & APOLOGIES	
1.1	See above.	
1.2	Noted that the approval for the purchase of the camera trap for the group at the last meeting had been omitted from the previous Notes of Meeting. The camera had been purchased with accessories at a cost of £172.98.	
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES OF MEETING	
2.1	<p>(2.2) Noted that there was still no Vice Chair. AS expressed real concern that this was still the case having asked a number of people if they would consider taking on the role. Although AS has until April 2021 as Chair she felt the matter needed serious consideration as she would be standing down from committee at that time with possibly no-one to take over the Chair role. It was agreed that this should be brought up with group members in relation to the possibility of the CBG having to fold if no potential Chair was found. AS expressed her thanks to ML who had been helping AS, whenever required, since she took over as Chair, as well as carrying out his Secretary duties.</p> <p>Noted that Anne Hogarth had stood down from committee for personal reasons.</p> <p>AS was delighted to announce that Lucy Hoad (LH) had offered to take over from ML as Secretary when he stands down at the AGM in April 2020. This offer was unanimously accepted by the committee to be ratified at the April AGM. In the meantime, ML was to explain the workings of the role prior to April and to be around, if assistance was required, during 2020/2021.</p>	ML/LH
2.2	(2.3) Noted that LW had contacted TESCO to establish when the 2020 collection date should be applied for with the process now done via an on-line booking process. Agreed that LW apply for a March-May 2020 slot in the November 2019 booking period.	LW
2.3	(2.4) Noted that KB's photographs were to be shown at the start and interval of the first autumn talk.	KB
2.4	(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 under "Me	

	and My Videos”.	AS
2.5	(2.8) Noted that EM was to establish current costs for buses in relation to a possible ‘Bird Bus’ trip to Leighton Moss in mid May 2020 on the basis of a 24 seat bus with pick ups at Gala and Selkirk.	EM
2.6	(2.9) Noted that CBG had responded to Greener Borders confirming that SWT talks would remain, as the longstanding arrangement, on the second Thursday of the month at Langlee CC. Noted that Greener Melrose had confirmed that their talks would now be on the third Thursday of the month. Agreed that AS to obtain Greener Melrose talk dates to allow them to be advertised through CBG.	AS/ML
2.7	(2.11) Noted that JW had identified and was pursuing a couple of potential composting companies in relation to meadow cuttings from Whitlaw Wood Reserve. Removal of the cuttings would still have to be considered.	JW
2.8	(2.12) Noted that SWT HQ were still working on templates for welcome e-mails to new members from Local Groups. Noted that HQ had forwarded details of CBG memberships for 2018/19 showing an average of 620 memberships; and overall reduction in 1 over the period; total active memberships with e-mail consents averaging 42%.	AS/ML
2.9	(2.14) Noted that the bird ringing event at Hare Moss in June had been cancelled for various reasons with a similar event proposed in 2020, possibly at TW’s house garden rather than on a reserve.	AS
2.10	(2.15) Noted that a Fungi Survey was arranged with Borders Fungus Group at Hare Moss on 16 th November 2019. Details to be sent to members nearer the time.	AS
2.11	(2.19) Noted that the annual SWT AGM was to be held at Borders Campus on 21 st September 2019 with CBG to provide material for a stand, Power Point rolling slideshow images and a 10 minute presentation. AS showed the committee A3 mock up presentation boards that were being printed and reported that the other items were in hand. ML to bring his Borders butterflies case. Noted that the printing and mounting of the presentation boards was in the order of £175 and that they could be used for various events. A walk along the Tweed was programmed for after lunch led by CBG.	AS ML
	Noted that a number of CBG committee members would be attending and available to help HQ staff if required.	All
	Noted that Eildon Booklets could be on sale at the event.	ML
2.12	(2.20) Noted that there had been no follow up walk at Philiphaugh Primary School P4/5.	
2.13	(2.21) Noted that AS had led a walk at Hare Moss with members of the Momentum Group.	
2.14	(2.22)Noted that contact with the leader of the Stow SWT Watch Group, which was temporarily shut down due to ill health, was ongoing.	AS
2.15	(See 7.1)	

2.16 (8.1) Noted that ML had carried out a non-planned moth trapping exercise at Dunhog Moss in relation to a specific moth with the smaller light trap. ML agreed to organise a similar exercise next summer as a more planned event. **ML**

2.17 (15.1) Noted that SWT HQ had produced a response to the SG "Draft Corporate Plan - Delivering Forests and land that Scotland can be proud of 2019-2022" with SG's comments on the responses on the SG website.

2.18 Langlee CC. See 17.1.

2.19 (21.1) Noted that LW and AS were to attend the Open Night for the Scottish Borders 25th Walking Festival on the evening of 7th September 2019 in Selkirk with CBG having a stand. The presentation boards would be available from the printers for this and Eildon Booklets were to be on sale. **LW/AS**

3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

3.1 JF reported the following:

Bank Account £3323.01

Skipton BS Account £644.59

4.0 FUNDING

4.1 Lindean Bird Hide

AS reported that SBC had confirmed that the replacement Lindean hide estimated cost was £2000. AS was awaiting a copy of the minutes of the previous night's Lindean Management Group's meeting but was concerned from a telephone conversation that SBC were anticipating that CBG was going to fund the whole cost rather than contribute to the cost.

After discussion on this, and the fact that funds would also be required for the Hare Moss island repairs, it was agreed through a show of hands to offer a contribution of £750 towards the cost of the hide prefabrication but to make it clear, as previously, that the erection, maintenance and associated insurances would be by SBC. **AS**

It was noted that the local SOC Group might also be able contribute but that this should be done directly between them and SBC.

A potential approach to the Clark Woodland Trust for a contribution to this project was discussed but agreed that this should be made directly by SBC.

AS to confirm SBC funding proposal to Keith Robeson, SBC, and to David Parkinson and Douglas Methven as SWT representatives on the management group. **AS**

4.2 Hare Moss Island Repairs

AS reported that the estimated cost of materials to carry out full repairs to the artificial island at Hare Moss was in the order of £1000. This was for 2 layers of cork insulation and coir matting to act as a base for turf and associated fixings. The specification was to ensure that all natural materials were used.

A potential approach to the Clark Woodland Trust for a contribution to this project was agreed but noted that an application would have to be made, and confirmation of funding would have to be received, prior to carrying out any of the work. AS to review this in light of the desire to carry out the work this autumn. **AS**

5.0 PUBLICATIONS

5.1 Noted that 946 Eildon Booklets had now been sold, 128 since January, with all sales now in profit. ML had just delivered additional copies to Abbotsford with consideration to be again given to Live Borders sites at Harestanes and Old Gala House.

ML/AS

6.0 OUTINGS

6.1 Noted that the 2019 walks had gone ahead, despite poor weather on some, other than the St. Mary's Loch walk which had been cancelled at short notice due to heavy rain forecast.

7.0 TALKS

7.1 Noted that the 2019/2020 series of talks were due to commence 12th September 2019.

8.0 RESERVES

8.1 JW gave a local reserves report:

Hare Moss

See item 4.2 for island repairs.

JW reported that the 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 was ongoing.

JW

Dunhog Moss (SSSI)

No matters to report.

Whitlaw Wood

See item 2.7 on grass cutting removal.

Gordon Moss (SSSI)

Clearings to be cut and raked with further clearing to be considered as work party event. Recorded evidence of Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterflies in the clearings was noted as was a good late summer showing of devil's-bit scabious.

JW

Din Moss & Hoselaw Loch (SSSI)

Noted that access down the field edge, outwith the reserve, to Din Moss was currently hazardous with field stones hidden under vegetation.

Yetholm (SSSI)

Noted that Yetholm Loch is no longer a Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve. The 25 year reserve agreement between the Scottish Wildlife Reserve and the 3 owners came to an end on 31st July 2019. One of the three landowners informed SWT on the 18th July 2019 that they did not wish to renew the reserve agreement with SWT.

Bemersyde (SSSI)

JW reported that SWT would not be proceeding with the herbicide (Glyphosate) treatment to remove aquatic vegetation outside hide.

9.0 VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

9.1 See item 8.1 Gordon Moss.

10.0 DATA PROTECTION

10.1 Noted that there had been a few problems with members not receiving notification of the St. Mary's Loch walk cancellation due to issues of e-mail details supplied to HQ. AS had contacted HQ to try and resolve these matters.

- 11.0 PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE**
- 11.1 AS thanked LH for her assistance in carrying out the Planning Reviews.
- 11.2 AS reported that regular planning application reviews were ongoing with the following applications worthy of note:
 Cummings Hill – Forestry track application had been approved following the track proposals being modified to remove the east section of track through the area of heathland habitat.
- Gilston Wind Farm – Court of Session had quashed the Reporter’s decision of 7 February 2019. The appeal has been returned to SG’s Planning and Environmental Appeals Division for re-determination.
- 11.3 Forestry applications, other than forest tracks, were still not easily available to review by non-consultees. AS reported that the Stirling & Clackmannan Group had approached their local Forestry and Land Scotland Officer and were now informed of applications. CBG to consider if this approach should be taken but AS pointed out that it would require resources to review the applications. **ALL**
- 12.0 TWEED FORUM UPDATE**
- 12.1 Noted that AS had attended a recent Tweed Forum meeting followed by a visit to a farm near Redpath undertaking funded farming methods in relation to bird feed and cover.
- 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 LINDEAN BIRD HIDE**
- 15.1 See item 4.1.
- 16.0 LANGLEE COMMUNITY CENTRE**
- 16.1 JF reported that Langlee CC were waiting to hear back from Live Borders with the House Committee structure still as before. **JF**
- 17.0 HARESTANES APPLE DAY**
- 17.1 Noted that Harestanes Apple Day was confirmed as Sunday 6th October 2019 with SWT HQ booking and manning a stand. AS had agreed to accompany Nick Wight on the day and take along the presentation boards. **AS**
- AS asked other committee members to consider going along for part of the day if possible. **ALL**
- 18.0 AOCB**
- 18.1 AS reported that a farmer near Duns had requested wildlife recording advice on the farm and had referred him to TWIC for relevant consultants details.
- 18.2 Noted that ML and Jeff Waddell had accompanied Paul Wheelhouse MSP on a short day tour of sites in the Borders, including Cummings Hill, Chesters and Brownmoor Heights, to review biodiversity and conservation problems.
- 19.0 NEXT MEETING**
- THE NEXT MEETING DATE IS CONFIRMED AS THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER AT 7.00PM.**

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

Alison Smith 01/09/2019