

SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

NOTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 21st November 2019 7.00pm

Langlee Community Centre

Present

Malcolm Lindsay (ML)
Julian Warman (JW)
Louise Wallace (LW)
Tricia Wyllie (TW)
Eric Middleton (EM)
Jim Russell (JR)
Dawn Spark (DS)
Mike Rutherford (MR)
Alison Smith (AS)

Apologies

John Ferguson (JF)
Lucy Hoad (LH)
Kate Bisset (KB)

Item		Action
1.0	PRESENT & APOLOGIES	
1.1	See above.	
1.2	The Notes of the meeting held on 29 th August 2019 were approved.	
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES OF MEETING	
2.1	(2.1) Noted that Mike Rutherford (MR) had come forward to join the committee and had offered to fill the vacant Vice Chair role. Mike was co-opted onto the committee with his Vice Chair position to be ratified at the AGM in April. All at the meeting expressed their thanks to Mike for offering his support to the Group in this way. Noted that ML was to explain the workings of the Secretary role to LH prior to April.	ML/LH
2.2	(2.2) Noted that LW had been experiencing difficulties with the on-line TESCO booking process which required a change to the previously named registered person against the charity. LW now had a phone number for the TESCO administrator and was to contact her to change the name to LW. This was required to allow LW apply for a Saturday March-May 2020 slot in the November 2019 booking period.	LW
2.3	(2.3) Noted that KB's photographs had been shown at the first autumn talk with TW and Chris's photographs kindly provided for the November talk. Agreed that no photos required for next talk which had two speakers.	
2.4	(2.4) Noted that AS was to include a demonstration on access to the CBG Facebook page as part of her presentation at the next winter talk.	AS
2.5	(2.5) Noted that EM was still obtaining current costs for buses in relation to the possible 'Bird Bus' trip to Leighton Moss in mid May 2020. The current number of interested attendees was 11. Agreed to present the list again at the next talk and then decide if it was to be taken forward. Agreed that this should not go in the Events Booklet but be targeted at local members.	EM All
2.6	(2.6) Noted that Greener Melrose talk dates were being advertised through CBG.	
2.7	(2.7) Noted that JW had identified a SBC site for grass cuttings in relation to	

- meadow cuttings from Whitlaw Wood Reserve but the issue of removal remained. **JW**
- 2.8 (2.8) Noted that SWT HQ had sent out template options for welcome e-mails to new members from Local Groups. This had been circulated to the committee members. ML read out Option 1, which was for the welcome information to take the form of a letter rather than an e-mail. Proposed CBG inserts agreed in principle. ML and AS to refine and respond to HQ. **AS/ML**
- Noted that HQ had forwarded details of CBG memberships as at the end of September showing total active memberships of 1079 with active memberships with e-mail consents averaging 44%. Agreed that ML query the information in relation to family memberships. **ML**
- 2.9 (2.9) Noted that Stuart Craig had met with TW to discuss the possibility of having a bird trapping/ringing event at TW's house garden over the weekend of 25th/26th April 2020 with Stuart setting up nets on the Friday evening. It would be a 'turn up' arrangement over the two days. Agreed that this would be an event listed in the booklet. **JR**
- 2.10 (2.10) Noted that the Fungi Survey arranged with Borders Fungus Group at Hare Moss on 16th November 2019 had gone ahead and been successful with a large number of fungi types found and recorded. It had also been a very interesting and educational experience for the CBG members who attended. Some queries had been received as to how it had been advertised with AS answering that this had been done at the winter talks and by a CBG e-mail to group members via HQ. It had not been put on the CBG Facebook page as numbers had to be restricted due to the nature of the event.
- 2.11 (2.11) Noted that the annual SWT AGM held at Borders Campus on 21st September 2019 had gone very well and that the walk along the Tweed had been enjoyable in lovely weather conditions. AS thanked the CBG committee members who had helped on the day.
- Noted that Karen Chambers, SWT Trustee at HQ with responsibility for Local Groups, had used AS's presentation on "what local groups are for and what do they do" as part of her new Inter-Groups Newsletter. This was a new initiative to have more communication between local groups.
- 2.12 (2.14)Noted that contact with the leader of the Stow SWT Watch Group, which was temporarily shut down due to ill health, was ongoing.
- 2.13 (2.16) Noted that ML was to organise a moth recording exercise next summer at Dunhog Moss with volunteers to assist setting up the equipment. Agreed that this was to be a recording exercise rather than an advertised event. **ML**
- 2.14 (2.19) Noted that LW and AS had attended the Open Night for the Scottish Borders 25th Walking Festival on the evening of 7th September 2019 in Selkirk with CBG having a stand with presentation boards. Noted that the sale of Eildon Booklets had been very disappointing.
- 2.15 (4.1) Lindean bird hide. See item 4.1.
- 2.16 (4.2) Hare Moss island repairs. See item 4.2.
- 2.17 (5.1) Eildon Booklet sales. See item 5.1.
- 2.18 (8.1) Reserve matters. See item 8.1.
- 2.19 (11.3) The monitoring of forestry applications, other than forest tracks, was

again discussed with confusion as to what information on applications was now available on line. Noted that TWIC was being contacted by some forestry grant applicants as a condition of grant. AS noted that Reuben Singleton had offered to carry out a review of forestry applications when available on line in a similar fashion to the CBG planning review. AS to contact Reuben in the first instance rather than approach the local Forestry and Land Scotland Officer as there was no volunteer on committee to screen these applications.

AS

2.20 (16.1) Langlee Community Centre. See item 16.1.

2.21 Noted that SWT's attendance at Harestanes Apple Day on Sunday 6th October 2019 had been cancelled due to Nick Wright's ill health and very poor weather.

3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

3.1 JF had provided the following:

Bank Account £4488.57

Skipton BS Account £644.59

3.2 Noted that the Bank Account included Clark Woodlands Trust grant funding of £500 for Hare Moss island repairs and £1000, held on behalf of the Lindean Advisory Group, towards the SBC Lindean hide renewal. CBG's commitment of £750 towards the Lindean hide and allowance of approximately £500 for the Hare Moss island repairs had also to be considered against the bank account sums.

4.0 FUNDING

4.1 Lindean Bird Hide

Noted that AS had informed Keith Robeson, SBC, that CBG were committing £750 towards the replacement hide project and confirmed that SWT were not going to be responsible for the erection or upkeep of the hide which was to be a SBC responsibility. AS had also confirmed the Clark Woodland Trust award of £1000 to Keith Robeson and had requested details from him of payment instructions.

AS

Noted that the SBC £2000 estimated materials costs for the hide were now covered:

SWT CBG - £750

Clark Woodlands Trust award - £1000

SOC - £250.

Noted that Clark Woodlands Trust had requested that a funders' plaque be provided in the new hide to include their name as part funders. CBG to liaise with them on this provision which could include SWT CBG.

AS

4.2 Hare Moss Island Repairs

Noted that AS, JW and MR had discussed details of the island repairs prior to the meeting in terms of possible material fixings and programming of the work. Agreed that the work would have to be carried out before the end of March 2020. MR offered the use of his canoe which would mean two canoes would be available if Hugh Chalmers was still able to assist. Agreed that this would only require a small work party.

AS/JW/MR

5.0 PUBLICATIONS

5.1 Noted that as many Eildon Booklets had now been sold in 2019 as 2018 with main outlets of Main Street Trading Co., Abbotsford and Visitor Centre Jedburgh requesting new stock. Private sales were also going well with a number sold at a recent talk given by ML in Peebles.

Agreed that EM speak to the Selkirk Bookshop owner about the possibility of stocking the publication.

EM

6.0 OUTINGS

6.1 Noted that the 2019 cancelled St. Mary's Walk was to be on the 2020 outings programme and that a suggestion by Sarah Gant for a walk at Bowden Common was to be included for May. AS requested JR to ensure Sarah, and possibly Maggie Magee, were available for the Bowden date.

JR put forward suggestions for other walks:

Earlston Redpath walks.

Aberlady Bay (possibly led by East Lothian Ranger John Harrison)

Berwickshire Coastal Path

Dawyck

Pease Dean (led by JW)

Other suggestions were:

The Haining

Abbotsford House

AS put forward MR's suggestion for an outing to the Scottish National Museum's Collection Centre at Granton. This would take the form of a guided tour of selected natural history collections which were not on public display. The event, being non weather dependant, could be later in the season than the other events with transport arrangements to suit numbers.

Agreed on the following outing list to be taken forward by JR with dates to be considered in relation to leader availability:

JR

Glenkinnon Lodge Bird Ringing (see item 2.9) 25/26th April 2020

Bowden Common May date

Pease Dean

Aberlady Bay

St. Mary's Loch

Scottish National Museum's Collection Centre at Granton (later in the year)

7.0 TALKS

7.1 Noted that the 2019/2020 series of talks were now underway with the following potential speakers discussed for 2020/2021:

John Jeffrey Apiarist

Cameron Diekonigin Border Fungus Group

Derek Robeson Tweed Forum

Douglas Methven Border Birds

Chris Fairgrieve Forest Management (ML and AS to check on this approach)

Clifton Bain Peatlands

Mike Rutherford Local Beasties

Julian Warman SWT CBG Reserves

Eric Middleton Majorca

Rebecca Crawford (ML and AS to check on this approach)

ML/AS

EM to be provided with telephone numbers as required.

ML/AS

8.0 RESERVES

8.1 JW gave a local reserves report:

Hare Moss

See item 4.2 for island repairs.

JW reported that he had contacted a local forestry company to investigate the commercial viability, and feasibility, of felling the remaining trees at Hare Moss in one operation but had not received any response to date.

JW

Dunhog Moss (SSSI)

No matters to report.

Whitlaw Wood

See item 2.7 on grass cutting removal.

Gordon Moss (SSSI)

Clearings had been cut and raked by Dalkeith Team with further clearing to be considered as work party event for CBG.

JW

AS had been informed that another rare fungus had been recorded on the site by Borders Fungus Group.

Din Moss & Hoselaw Loch (SSSI)

Noted again 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 the hide at Yetholm Loch, which is no longer a Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve, is to be retained and maintained by Roxburghe Estate on whose land it is located. Access to the hide is unclear at the moment with JW having informed Susan Gray the SBC Access Officer regarding the changed arrangements.

Bemersyde (SSSI)

JW confirmed that SWT would not be proceeding with the herbicide (Glyphosate) treatment to remove aquatic vegetation outside hide with no other plans to manage the natural habitat progression .

9.0 VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

9.1 See item 8.1 Gordon Moss.

10.0 DATA PROTECTION

10.1 Noted that AS had contacted HQ in relation to certain members not receiving e-mails from HQ since data protection changes 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.

11.3 Noted that a Planning workshop organised by HQ was to be held on 11th February 2020 with venue to be confirmed. AS to attend and speak to LH about attending.

AS

12.0 TWEED FORUM UPDATE

12.1 Noted that the next Tweed Forum Meeting was to be held on 10th December 2019 at their new offices at Old Melrose. LH to attend representing SWT CBG.

LH

13.0 SBC LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (LBAP)

13.1 No current matters to report.

14.0 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES (LBS)

14.1 Noted that no further potential LBS sites were to be assessed until landowners were informed of those previously assessed. This was to be done by SBC in conjunction with TWIC.

15.0 LINDEAN BIRD HIDE

15.1 See item 4.1.

16.0 LANGLEE COMMUNITY CENTRE

16.1 JF had reported that he had attended a Langlee CC House Committee Meeting on 4th November 2019. Live Borders were to meet with the Langlee CC Committee at the end of November to advise on applying for Big Lottery Fund funding towards the employment of a Development Officer who would assist the committee in running the Centre and increasing the use of the Centre to keep it viable. JF to keep CBG informed of progress with this matter. **JF**

17.0 AOCB

17.1 Noted that Douglas Methven had stood down from the Lindean Management Group which left David Parkinson as SWT CBG representative. Agreed that AS to ask Margot Baird, who lives locally, if she wanted to represent the group. If not, then the members were to be asked. **AS**

17.2 AS put forward suggestion that a microphone/sound system be considered for the talks as some attendees had reported having difficulty in hearing. Agreed that MR proceed with investigating what was on the market with a budget of approximately £80 approved. **MR**

17.3 Noted that Greener Borders were hosting a Green Hustings with local candidates in relation to the General Election on 27th November 2019 at 7pm at Marmions Melrose.

17.4 Noted that Greener Melrose were presenting the film Demain (Tomorrow) on steps to a sustainable future on 1st December 2019 at 4-6pm at Marmions Melrose. Tickets to be obtained through Eventbrite.

17.5 Noted that TWIC were holding their Autumn AGM and Conference on Urban Wildlife at SRUC Oatridge Campus Broxburn on 30th November 2019. MR confirmed he would be attending.

18.0 NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING DATE TO BE THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM.

19.0 CIRCULATION

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

Alison Smith 24/11/2019