

SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

NOTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 20th February 2020 7.00pm

Langlee Community Centre

Present

Tricia Wyllie (TW)
Eric Middleton (EM)
Dawn Spark (DS)
John Ferguson (JF)
Mike Rutherford (MR)
Alison Smith (AS)

Apologies

Kate Bisset (KB)
Malcolm Lindsay (ML)
Julian Warman (JW)
Lucy Hoad (LH)
Louise Wallace (LW)
Jim Russell (JR)

Item		Action
1.0	PRESENT & APOLOGIES	
1.1	See above.	
1.2	The Notes of the meeting held on 21 st November 2019 were approved.	
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES OF MEETING	
2.1	(2.1) Noted that LH would not now be taking over from ML as Secretary in April 2020. AS was pleased to report that Lisa McLeish would be joining the committee in April 2020 and would be 'shadowing' ML on secretarial duties during 2020/2021 with the view to becoming Secretary in April 2021.	ML/AS
2.2	(2.2) Noted that LW had eventually managed to register with TESCO under their new system with a Friday or Saturday date in July or August expected for the CBG collection. Noted that LW had intimated that she would be standing down from committee in April 2020 but would leave her registered name against the application for this year to avoid confusion with TESCO. TW agreed to take over as organiser of the event and was to obtain details of the process from LW.	LW/TW TW/LW
	Agreed that SWT HQ be approached to provide items for children on the day of the collection.	TW/AS
2.3	(2.4) Noted that AS had been unable to include demonstration on access to the CBG Facebook page as part of her presentation at the winter talk due to its cancellation in relation Langlee CC being used to re-house Peebles High School children. This would be done as part of the re-scheduled talk in 2020. AS was pleased to report that MR, Lisa McLeish and Michelle Stamp were now poster 'editors' on the Facebook page with AS remaining as administrator.	
2.4	(2.5) Agreed that the proposed 'Bird Bus' trip be held back until 2021 with AS to announce this at the next talk. EM was to visit Leighton Moss in the interim to assess current facilities etc..	AS EM
2.5	(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
2.6	(2.8) Noted that ML had responded to SWT HQ on template options for welcome e-mails to new members from Local Groups.	

Noted that HQ had forwarded updated details of CBG memberships from October 2019 to December 2019 which were now split between memberships and members, (allowing for family memberships), showing total active current memberships of 637, total number of members at 1084, with active memberships with e-mail consents still averaging 44%. Noted that SWT HQ were to include a letter with the next magazine asking members to update their contact preferences with the view to increasing the e-mail consents.

- 2.7 (2.9) Noted that a bird trapping/ringing event, run by Stuart Craig, at TW's house garden over the weekend of 25th/26th April 2020 had been arranged with details to be made available to CBG members to control numbers. **ML**
- 2.8 (2.10) Noted that a follow up Fungi Survey at Hare Moss, requested by the Borders Fungus Group, was to take place on Saturday 6th June 2020. Details to be made available to CBG members to control numbers. **ML**
- 2.9 (2.13) 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**
- 2.10 (2.19) Planning Review. See item 11.0.
- 2.11 (4.1) Lindean bird hide. See item 3.2.
- 2.12 (4.2) Noted that the materials for the repairs to the artificial island at Hare Moss had been purchased and cork panels pre-fabricated for use in carrying out the repairs. The work was planned for Friday 28th February with a restricted number of volunteers. **JW/AS/
MR/DS
/LMcL/
HC**
- 2.13 (5.1) Agreed that EM speak to the Selkirk Bookshop owner about the possibility of stocking the publication. **EM**
- 2.14 (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 11.0, 12.0 and 16.0) See below items.
- 2.15 (17.1) Noted that AS had approached Margot Baird in relation to her considering filling the vacant CBG position on the Lindean Management Group. No decision had been taken due to the SBC decision to review its estates, which includes Lindean. Matter to be re-considered when the future status of the site was known. **AS**
- 2.16 (17.2) Noted that a microphone/sound system had been purchased for CBG at a cost of £102.18 which had been used at the Member's Night. AS thanked MR for his help in selecting a system.

3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

3.1 JF had provided the following:

Bank Account £3087.94

Skipton BS Account £654.91

3.2 Noted that the Bank Account included Clark Woodlands Trust grant funding of £1000, held on behalf of the Lindean Advisory Group, and CBG's commitment of £750 towards the SBC Lindean hide renewal. Expenditure of these sums awaited SBC's confirmation of the hide replacement project going ahead in relation to an unexpected review of SBC estates being carried out by SBC.

Noted that the Clark Woodlands Trust would require the £1000 to be paid back if the work was not committed to be going ahead by early March 2020. AS to pursue with SBC and the Trust. **AS**

3.3 Noted that JF had indicated that a new person was required to independently check the Group's accounts. TW was to speak to Chris Whitmore to establish if he would be willing to undertake this role.

TW

4.0 FUNDING

4.1 Lindean Bird Hide

See item 3.2.

5.0 PUBLICATIONS

5.1 Ongoing.

6.0 OUTINGS

6.1 The following events had been arranged for 2020: (The bird ringing and fungus foray events were to be advertised to CBG members only to restrict numbers for practical reasons.) Thanks to JR for his work on arranging these outings.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Saturday 25 th & Sunday 26 th April 2020	Glenkinnon Lodge	8.30am-17.30pm each day	Stuart Craig
Sunday 3 rd May 2020	Pease Dean	14.00-16.30pm	Julian Warman
Saturday 16 th May 2020	Bowden Common	14.00-16.30pm	Sarah Gant
Saturday 6 th June 2020	Fungi Foray Hare Moss	10.30am-14.00pm	Borders Fungus Group
Sunday 14 th June 2020	Boleside Evening Walk	19.00-21.00pm	Alison Smith + Malcolm Lindsay
Saturday 11 th July 2020	St. Mary's Loch	11.00am-16.00pm	Malcolm Lindsay

6.2 MR reported that he had been in touch with the Scottish Museum Granton Collections and Research Centre with the view to arranging a CBG guided tour event to sections of the storage, most likely the invertebrate and vertebrate sections. Probable dates would be in September or October 2020. MR to come back with more details.

MR

7.0 TALKS

7.1 The following talks had been arranged for 2020/21: AS thanked EM for his work on arranging these speakers.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Topic</i>
Thursday 10 th September 2020	John Jeffrey	Tales so far of a Scottish Apiarist
Thursday 8 th October 2020	Julian Warman	SWT Reserves in South East Scotland
Thursday 12 th November 2020	Cameron Diekonigin	Fungi – not quite what you think!
Thursday 10 th December 2020	Alison Smith Chris Rose	Me and my Videos Svalbard
Thursday 14 th January 2021		Members' Night
Thursday 11 th February 2021	Douglas Methven	New camera experiences
Thursday 11 th March 2021	Derek Robeson	Delivering conservation projects on a landscape scale in the Tweed Catchment

8.0 RESERVES

8.1 JW was unable to attend the meeting with AS reporting on the following:

Hare Moss

See item 2.12 for island repairs.

JW had informed AS that a local forestry company had reported on the commercial viability, and feasibility, of felling the remaining trees at Hare Moss in one operation. This would include the remaining sitka on the west side (the hide side) and the north side. The row of sitka to the side of the path leading into the reserve would remain due to access difficulties for felling and removal. It was anticipated that the work could commence early autumn 2020. JW/AS to keep committee and members informed.

JW/AS

Dunhog Moss (SSSI)

No matters to report.

Whitlaw Wood

See item 2.5 on grass cutting removal.

Gordon Moss (SSSI)

Further clearing area identified by JW with SWT Dalkeith Team to carry out major tree felling aspects.

Din Moss & Hoselaw Loch (SSSI)

No matters to report.

Yetholm (SSSI)

Noted that the hide is to be retained and maintained by Roxburghe Estate on whose land it is located. Access to the hide is still unclear at the moment with SOC in communication with SBC Access Officer regarding the changed arrangements.

Bemersyde (SSSI)

No matters to report.

9.0 VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

9.1 Noted that AS was proposing a litter pick event at Hare Moss A7 verge on Sunday 5th April at 2pm. A paper list requesting volunteers had been prepared for the talks with those on the CBG volunteer list to be informed by e-mail.

ML

9.2 DS suggested more regular litter pick events at Hare Moss and agreed to organise these using the volunteer list.

DS/ML

10.0 DATA PROTECTION

10.1 See item 2.6. MR noted that he was only receiving some HQ SWT e-mails but no CBG ones despite having completed the online subscription form. MR to try again and report back.

MR

10.2 Noted that ML and AS had prepared an A4 sheet guide on how to 'subscribe' for local group information.

11.0 PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE

11.1 Noted that monthly planning reviews were ongoing. Noted that AS had been contacted, via SWT HQ, by Michelle Stamp in relation to being involved in such reviews on behalf of Scottish Badgers. AS had met with Michelle to discuss

CBG's system of review and she was now being copied in on the planning review spreadsheet.

- 11.3 Noted that a Planning Workshop for SWT Groups organised by HQ had been held on 11th February 2020 at HQ offices. Main participants had been CBG (AS and Michelle Stamp), Stirling & Clackmannan and Lothians. Planning review/monitoring/commenting/objecting issues had been discussed as well as major concerns expressed in relation to monitoring/reviewing forestry applications. Forestry applications were expected to rapidly increase in relation to meeting SG's climate change tree planting targets. CBG's area would be the subject of a substantial proportion of these planting plans.
- 11.4 AS again expressed concern regarding the fact that the public register for viewing forestry applications was not as accessible to non-consultees (SWT) as the planning portal and required liaison with the local Scottish Forestry Officer to obtain detailed information. TW mentioned similar work being undertaken by Chris Whitmore for their Community Council. Agreed that she discuss the possibility of CBG working together with Chris on planning and forestry matters with AS to be contacted for more details. **TW/AS**
- 12.0 TWEED FORUM UPDATE**
- 12.1 Noted that a Tweed Forum Meeting had been held on 10th December 2019 at their new offices at Old Melrose but, due to unforeseen circumstances, CBG had not been represented.
- 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. Ongoing.
- 15.0 LINDEAN BIRD HIDE**
- 15.1 See item 3.2.
- 16.0 LANGLEE COMMUNITY CENTRE**
- 16.1 JF had no news to report with the next meeting to be held in April 2020 which JF would attend. **JF**
- 17.0 CBG AGM MATTERS**
- 17.1 CBG Committee elections and roles from April 2020 were discussed prior to the AGM. AS to confirm these following discussion with ML. **AS**
- 17.2 TW agreed to take over from LW in arranging the Langlee CC bookings with process to be discussed with LW. **LW/TW**
- 18.0 AOCB**
- 18.1 Noted that the SWT AGM and Members' Day was to be held on Saturday 12th September 2020 at Chambers Street Scottish Museum. No booking detail released as yet.
- 18.2 Noted that MR had represented SWT and CBG at an Environmental Alliance for South of Scotland, (EASoS), on 28th January 2020 at Lockerbie. Notes of the meeting were to be circulated. **MR/AS**
- 18.3 Noted that the current First Aid Certificates held by CBG committee members were:
TW - expires June 2021
AS - expires March 2022

Agreed that AS ask SWT HQ if MR could be funded to obtain the Certificate. **AS**

18.4 Noted that AS had been invited to provide another presentation for the Momentum Group, for people with brain injuries, in March 2020.

18.5 AS reported that she had enquired about CBG being represented at the Border Union Schools Countryside Education Day at Kelso on Tuesday 19th May 2020. <https://borderunion.co.uk/education/schools-day/> Application forms are to be forwarded to AS. AS had also contacted SWT HQ about the event. **AS**

19.0 NEXT MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING DATE TO BE CONFIRMED.

20.0 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 21/02/2020