

SWT CENTRAL BORDERS GROUP

NOTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 11th February 2021 7.30pm

ZOOM Meeting

Present

Mike Rutherford (MR)
Dawn Spark (DS)
Tricia Wylie (TW)
Kate Bisset (KB)
John Ferguson (JF)
Jim Russell (JR)
Malcolm Lindsay (ML)
Lisa McLeish (LMcL)
Alison Smith (AS)
Michelle Stamp (MS)

Apologies

Lucy Hoad (LH)
Julian Warman (JW)

Item		Action
1.0	PRESENT & APOLOGIES	
1.1	See above. Noted that apologies had been received from Lucy Hoad and Julian Warman.	
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS NOTES OF MEETING	
2.1	(2.1) Noted that Lisa McLeish's election to committee had been approved at the AGM on the 5 th November 2020.	
2.2	(2.2) Noted that Louise Wallace (LW) had contacted the new agent for TESCO and awaited confirmation of the lockdown easing situation in relation to the planned the CBG collection. This is still on hold by TESCO. As LW has now stepped down from the committee we will require a new representative. This is still to be decided.	AS/MR
2.3	(2.12) MR has confirmed he is now receiving all emails from HQ.	
2.4	(2.13) Guidance sheet had been sent by AS to JR and he was now receiving emails.	
2.5	(2.16) SWT AGM and Members Day had been held online and received positive feedback.	
2.6	(3.3) Independent checking of CBG financial accounts had been carried out by Chris Whitmore and thanks recorded.	
2.7	(17.1) CBG AGM was held online by Zoom on 5 th November 2020 and it is intended that the next one will be held in the same way in April.	
2.8	(18.2) After discussion it was decided not to subscribe to Zoom Pro due to cost. We will continue to use Zoom Free for committee meetings and local talks with the possibility of paying one off fees for larger events when required.	
	CBG presentations to date being done with Zoom Free with HQ providing Webinar facility for monthly presentations hosted by Local Groups. The use of Eventbrite, whilst allowing a wider audience to participate and donations,	

appeared to be causing issues in relation to local group knowing who was attending and communications with attendees within data protection rules.

MR had confirmed that John Jeffries and Cameron Diekonigin had declined due to their presentations having 'props' and audience participation. Douglas Methven wanted to wait until a normal evening presentation was possible. Julian Warman had indicated he would be willing to do his presentation online. The CBG Zoom Free quiz organised by MR with input from AS, ML and LMCL had been well received with subsequent Zoom Free presentation on the South of Scotland Golden Eagle project by Philip Munro attracting over 30 attendees. HQ Webinar in March to be Derek Robeson of Tweed Forum presentation on their water catchment work technically hosted by HQ and personally hosted by CBG. (This was to have been CBG's March evening presentation.)

Next local CBG Zoom Free presentation to be by MR on his local woodland to be held on Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm. MR to provide ML with details to go to HQ for member e-mails to be sent out.

MR/ML

AS to contact Julian Warman to ask if he would be prepared to do his South East Scotland Reserves talk as an online Zoom Free presentation.

AS

3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

3.1 JF had provided the following:

Bank Account £1795.52

Skipton BS Account £654.91

4.0 FUNDING

4.1 No fundraising has been possible due to Covid-19 restrictions.

4.2 AS, MR, MS and LMCL attended the SWT HQ Local Group Forum discussion online on 3rd February 2021. Various issues had been raised including using Facebook as a mechanism to raise funds. The matter of how Local Groups would receive donations had to be considered. New members and fundraising events organised by HQ were discussed with requests that relevant Local Groups should be informed in advance with specific Local Group 'promotion' information provided at the same time.

MS suggested looking into having a 'Donation' button on the Facebook page and Paypal facility for payments.

MS

5.0 OUTINGS

5.1 It was decided to delay any decisions on outings until the covid situation is clearer.

6.0 TALKS

It was decided to delay organising 'live' talks until the covid situation is clearer. However, we will continue with monthly, online presentations until we can meet again in person.

7.0 RESERVES

7.1 Hare Moss

Tree felling is now planned for autumn 2021, depending on covid restrictions.

Gordon Moss (SSSI)

JW reported that SWT Dalkeith team had enlarged a glade during 2020 without using volunteers.

Bemersyde (SSSI) and Hare Moss

Police have been informed regarding the undesirable use of the hides. Hides remain closed until further notice.

8.0 PLANNING REVIEW UPDATE

8.1 Ongoing reviews are being carried out by AS and LH.

8.2 Forestry application by Buccleuch Woodlands outwith the review brought to CBG's attention at Drinkstone Hawick leading to communications and online meeting with Buccleuch Woodlands, Bruce Wilson SWT HQ and Jeff Waddell on concerns in relation to certain areas proposed for tree planting. This has led to changes being made to the proposals. However, AS still concerned that forestry applications are not being monitored by any interested organisation with access to plans only becoming available when they reach the public register with limited time to consider.

9.0 TWEED FORUM UPDATE

9.1 LH has been attending online Tweed Forum (TF) meetings on behalf of SWT CBG. Request by TF at last meeting for information on SWT's Riverwoods project was passed on by AS to Bruce Wilson at HQ and received details to be forwarded by LH to TF.

10.0 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES (LBS)

10.1 There have been no further meetings by steering group to assess new potential LBS sites as resources have been targeted at informing landowners under a consultation period. LBS sites already identified and assessed will now be included in Local Plan.

11.0 LANGLEE COMMUNITY CENTRE

11.1 Survey had been issued to users of Langlee CC including CBG regarding anticipated return to use of the facilities in relation to proposed Covid measures being in place. AS had been unhappy at proposed Covid cleaning duties and risk assessment responsibilities expected of user groups. CBG response had been general at this stage in that no talks were planned until autumn 2021.

12.0 AOCB

12.1 Selkirk Brownies

CBG had been approached by Lizzie Bunyan from the 4th Selkirk Brownies, to provide an online presentation on a wildlife topic. LMcL has been in contact with them and has agreed to give a presentation 23rd March 2021.

LMcL

12.2 Jedburgh Campus

Approach made by teacher to enquire if CBG would like to be involved in planned biodiversity/wildlife/planting projects for this new campus school. MS has agreed to be the contact for this as there is also input from Borders Forest Trust.

MS

12.3 Traquair House

CBG were approached by Isabella Stuart Grey from Traquair House regarding advice about increasing biodiversity and conservation on the grounds. It was noted that MR had been to visit and discussed options, including holding a future Bioblitz in the area. LMCL is to visit in March to discuss carrying out surveys of badger setts on the grounds.

MR
LMcL

13.0 AGM

Looking ahead to the April AGM in terms of Office Bearers and Committee Members.

Standing down as Chair Alison Smith

Standing down as Secretary Malcolm Lindsay

Standing down from committee Tricia Wylie and Kate Bisset

To be re-elected Jim Russell

To be proposed for election as Chair Mike Rutherford

To be proposed for election as Secretary Lisa McLeish

To be proposed for election as Vice Chair Michelle Stamp

Continuing as Treasurer John Ferguson (re-election due in 2022)

Continuing as Committee Member Eric Middleton (re-election due 2022)

Continuing as Committee Member Dawn Sharp (re-election due 2022)

Continuing as Committee Member Lucy Hoad (re-election due 2023)

14.0 NEXT MEETING

This is to be the AGM in April 2021. Date TBC.

15.0 CIRCULATION

Malcolm Lindsay

John Ferguson

Kate Bisset

Tricia Wylie

Eric Middleton

Jim Russell

Dawn Spark

Lucy Hoad

Mike Rutherford

Julian Warman

Lisa McLeish

Alison Smith

Lisa McLeish 14/02/2021