

Cambridge Conservation Forum AGM 2016

17.00- 19.00, Wednesday 6 July 2016

Venue: Common Room, David Attenborough Building

Chair: Roger Mitchell (Items 1-4)
Will Simonson (Item 5)
Humphrey Crick (Items 6-9)

Present

Roger Mitchell	Chair (ARCT; ARC-ESL; RSB; GO-AONB)	RM
Will Simonson	Deputy Chair (UoC Plant Sciences; WCMC)	WS
Judith Schleicher	Treasurer (UoC Geography; WCMC)	JS
Angelika von Heimendahl	Secretary (Cam Cattle)	AH
Humphrey Crick	incoming Chair (Natural England)	HC
Paola Bruseghini	Social Media manager (CUP)	PB
Natalie Lambert	CCF committee - events; Anglia Ruskin University	
Sue Wells	Marine Group Convener (consultant)	

Jeremy Lindsell	A Rocha
Barbara de Waard	Biodiversity Business
John Pilgrim	The Biodiversity Consultancy
Kevin Hughes	British Antarctic Survey
Sue Collins	Butterfly Conservation Europe
Peter Pillbeam	Cambridge Mammal Group
Dominic Lewis	Cambridge University Press
Sara Marshall	Cambs ACRE
Charles Turner	Cam Valley Forum
Steve Allain	CPARC
Ed Wombwell	CPPF
Nigel Cooper	Diocese of Ely/Anglia Ruskin University
Lizzie Duthie	Fauna and Flora International
Lydia Murphie	Fauna and Flora International
Jenny Leon	Froglife
Phil Hadridge	idenk
Silvia Perez-Espona	Individual Member
Richard Barnes	Knysna Basin Project
Michel Cooper	MPhil-Conservation Leadership
Teresa Mulliken	TRAFFIC

Apologies

Francine Hughes	Anglia Ruskin University
Geoff Morley	Anglia Ruskin University
Keri Jane Russell	Anglia Ruskin University
Jean Perraton	CamValley Farm
Pamela Abbott	CCF committee
Martina Bristow	CCF committee

Sarah Ivory	CCF committee
Andrea Santangelo	CCF committee
Louise Bacon	Cambridge Bird Club
Chris Fletcher	Cambridge Mammal Group
Vince Lea	Countryside Restoration Trust
Wendy Foden	Environment Africa Trust
David Allen	IUCN Species Survival Commission
Daniel Hayhow	RSPB
Rebecca Willers	Shepreth Wildlife Park
Keith Virgo	TAA
Debbie Macklin	TBA

1. Introduction (RM)

- Introduction from every member as well establishing voting eligibility (i.e. Representation of CCF Organisational Member)

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting from the 14th January 2016 (RM).

- Short summary given by Richard Barnes (Knysna Basin Project) about the structure of the charity. They have a chairperson, treasurer, members and AGM. Although the charity is focused on a single project the structure is that of an organisation, and therefore fits into the membership criteria for CCF.

Vote to approve the Minutes: For (18 votes+ 2 postal votes) Against (0) Abstaining (0)

There were no matters arising which were not in agenda to follow.

3. Treasurer's Report (JS)

Current balance is £3646 (17.06.2016), which is very similar to 2015 at £3661.30.

Major income and expenditure was due to the annual symposium, with a healthy surplus of £1363.08 due to grant-aid and more attendees than anticipated. There were small costs for internet, refreshments and social events. Dr Peter Brotherton (Natural England) very kindly donated his payment (£323.20) from teaching on the MPhil in Conservation Leadership to CCF.

4. Organisational Membership

- Cambridge University has one student representative for all student conservation clubs and one representative is available to Anglia Ruskin, which has not been taken up at the moment.

- Geographical limits of membership: RM asked the members if they would like to define this more clearly. At the moment this is defined as: 'in and around' Cambridge, but spreads from Norwich to Corby.

Action point: Define a geographical area, with membership admitted from outside this area at the discretion of Council as necessary.

The discussion widened into the need to define more clearly:

- who was entitled to join (entities such as organisations, charities etc)
- what defines CCF membership
- how do the organisations that join contribute towards its goals

Action point: Define membership criteria and CCF goals in a summarized form, so that it can be clear how new members can contribute to the forum

NEW MEMBER

Pippa Heylings from 'Talking Transformation' introduced herself. Pippa has spent more than 20 years working with NGOs all over the world looking at conflict resolution in conservation and facilitating the involvement of 'business for good'. Pippa has already joined the 'Women in Conservation Leadership' group and Talking Transformation would like to be able to contribute its expertise as a facilitator to the workings of the CCF and help in other ways, as may be useful.

Pippa Heylings and 'Talking Transformation' was accepted for membership of CCF unanimously.

5. Committee Membership

Election of the new chair, deputy chair and treasurer

Chair: *stepping down:* Roger Mitchell *To be elected:* Humphrey Crick

Deputy chair: *stepping down:* Will Simonson *To be elected:* Judith Schleicher

Treasurer: *stepping down:* Judith Schleicher *To be elected:* Roger Mitchell

Vote: For (18 votes+ 2 postal votes) Against (0) Abstaining (0)

Confirming new positions (Secretary, membership secretary, events manager)

Secretary: Angelika von Heimendahl

Membership Secretary: Josie Chambers

Events Manager: Martina Bristow

Vote: For (18 votes+ 2 postal votes) Against (0) Abstaining (0)

The chair thanked retiring committee members for their input to CCF.

6. Relationship between CCF and CCI

HC emphasized the importance of the relationship between CCI and CCF as two organisations which complement each other and should work together closely. Given the new situation with regard to the David Attenborough Building and the strengthening of CCI, a group had been convened to consider aspects of the relationship between CCF and CCI.

The CCF/CCI relationship group consisted of :

CCF: Roger Mitchell, Pamela Abbott, Judith Schleicher, Will Simonson

CCI: Ros Aveling; Andy Clements; Rosie Trevelyan; Mike Rands

Phil Hadridge (IDENK) was brought in as a facilitator.

After a series of meetings/calls by this group, an agreement had been reached for taking forward a series of actions that will help to build the CCF-CCI relationship. Phil Hadridge introduced the agreement document, that had been circulated with the papers for the AGM. He noted particularly:

- Page 13 of the AGM's papers: the background to the working group,
- Page 14: Range of important issues discussed,
- Page 15: setting out the principles within which the CCF-CCI relationship should develop; highlighting the different roles and contributions that CCF and CCI have and how they are complementary;
- Page 15-16: identifying a roadmap for how the relationship should proceed; including the opportunity to accelerate the development of CCF through the funding of a CCF co-ordinator. There is a set of issues that, while important, is to be "parked" to help ensure progress on aspects of common agreement;
- Annex C: reviewed issues to do with access to the DA Building.

A wide ranging discussion considered a range of aspects in the paper:

Questions were particularly raised as to why the CCF had not progressed in its ambition to become a CIO. It was explained that some CCI/CCF members had expressed concern that if the CCF become a CIO it might complicate the relationship between it and its members, as such this issue had been “parked” but not “buried” – we would see how the new agreement progressed and may return to the issue if it has advantages for the CCF. It was noted that several CCF members have experience in setting up CIOs and have found it to be relatively straight forward.

If CCF became a CIO, then it would be able to apply for funding as an independent organisation, giving it the ability to maintain itself with a more sustainable future; but the CCI might require the CCF to finance more of its DAB costs, that are currently subsidized considerably by CCI members. There are associated issues to do with whether CIO status might help limit the financial reliability of CCF committee members, but this needs further exploration. If funding for a CCF co-ordinator could be raised outwith any CIO status, the staff member could be employed through one of the CCI partners, this could have advantages if, for example, Cambridge University would then deal with pension, National Insurance and other legal staffing matters.

Several members of the CCF noted that the agreement tabled at this meeting represented a great opportunity for developing a positive working relationship between CCF and CCI. Given the degree of work and discussion that had gone into the agreement, it was felt that we should endorse the agreement, while maintaining a keen watching brief to encourage rapid progress with key areas, particularly use of the DAB and funding for a CCF administrator.

HC, echoed various comments that the CCF needs to think about its ambitions. He said that he was keen to review the CCF Strategy and vision documents to see whether they need some refreshing, given the new developments of the DAB and CCI.

Vote on whether to support with the CCF-CCI agreement: For (18 votes+ 2 postal votes) Against (0) Abstaining (0)

7. CCF Communications

Global Food Security

The Cambridge Conference on Global Food Security, 23-24 June organised by Will Simonson was a great success. Over 200 delegates attended and discussed the link between conservation and food.

CCF MARINE GROUP

No other marine group in Cambridge and therefore this provides a very useful mechanism for meeting up and organising interesting talks. The group feels it is benefitting greatly from this platform and finds access to DAB meeting rooms very useful.

MARG (CCF Management and Restoration Group)

Successful trips to Lakenheath Fen and the Thetford Forest (averaging 35 people). One more visit for this year to the Little Ouse Headwaters Project project. All events are advertised through the newsletter.

CCF WOMEN IN CONSERVATION Leadership

Active facebook page with currently 236 members

CCF NEWSLETTER

Much appreciated by all members. Facebook page and Twitter very active.

We could do with more people (currently 3 facilitators, would be better to have 5)

8. Date of next CCF Council Meeting

TBA but in December 2016 or January 2017

9. Any Other Business

A big thank you from the committee and all the members to Roger Mitchell and Will Simonson for the enormous amount of work they have done over the last few years for the CCF !