

Cambridge Conservation Forum AGM Council Meeting

Wednesday 6. September 2017
16.30-18.30

Venue: Common Room, David Attenborough Building

Chair: Humphrey Crick

Present

Humphrey Crick	Chair (Natural England)	HC
Judith Schleicher	Deputy Chair (UoC Geography; WCMC)	JS
Roger Mitchell	Treasurer (ARCT; ARC-ESL; RSB; GO-AONB)	RM
Angelika von Heimendahl	Secretary (Cam Cattle)	
Josie Chambers	Membership Manager (UoC Geography)	JC
Andrea Santangelo	Social Meetings Manager	

Lucas Ruzowitzky	Citizen Zoo
Nick Atkinson	Woodland Trust
Helen Dye	Woodland Trust
Keith Virgo	Tropical Agriculture Associate
Laura Friedrich	UNREP-WCMC
Olivia Norfolk	Anglia Ruskin University
Pippa Heyling	Talking Transformation
Gavin Siriwardena	BTO
Emily Scragg	BTO
Barbara de Waard	Biodiversity Business
Steve Allain	CPARC
Louise Bacon	Cambridge Bird Group
Caitlin Black	Dep. of Zoology CU
Pete Carey	Plant Sciences CU
Kevin Hughes	British Antarctic Survey
Richard Barnes	Knysna Basin Project
Annette Lanjouw	Arcus Foundation
Hugo Rainey	WCS
Genevieve Campbell	The Biodiversity Consultancy
Kevin Hunt	Cambridge Natural History Society
Peter Pilbeam	Cambridge Mammal Group
Stephen Tomkins	Cam Valley Forum
Vince Lea	The Countryside Restoration Trust

1. Introduction (HC)

Welcome from HC and introduction of present members, name, organisations and whether they are voting representatives. Record of members present and apologies.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting from 25th April 2017 (HC)

- Note that Keith Virgo of TAA should be added to the list of attendees
- Vote to approve the Minutes: Approved by all present members

3. Treasurer's Report (RM)

Balance in the CCF account remains around £3000 with incomes (mostly symposia) and expenditure balancing the books.

Vote to approve the Accounts: Approved nem. con.

4. Organisational Membership (HC)

4.1 The following new members were approved by vote:

- Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust gave a short introduction of their work. Tree canopy in the UK is declining due to agricultural intensification. They are hoping that membership of the CCF will put them in touch with organisations on a local and national level.

They are also in touch with 'Friends of Oliver Rackham' about local landscape programmes.

5. Committee Membership (HC)

5.1 Several positions within the CCF are vacant. The Events Team needs more members to help the CCF to keep a lively series of meetings and symposia. We also need a new Facebook moderator.

5.2 Council confirmed that Keri Russell would be appointed as the new website and communications manager for the CCF.

6. CCF updates

6.1. Membership Contacts (JC)

Over half the members have been contacted in face-to-face meetings with committee members to explore their interactions with CCF. The committee aims to meet with the rest

of the membership and draw together conclusions from these meetings for discussion with Council.

6.1 Future Priorities of the CCF (JC)

- In the light of the discussion held at the Annual Symposium in 2017, a number of issues had been discussed further by the Committee:
 - CCF needs an Event group to put together 4 or 5 smaller events per year
 - CCF could strengthen its local focus because CCI has a strong international focus
 - Social events have declined in interest as the CCI/DAB grouping has become more a local focus for activities, so some new approaches will be needed to meet members' needs.

6.2. Brexit Group (JS)

JS will organize a CCF meeting to discuss Brexit and its consequences. It was noted that there are a number of papers published on the topic and a number of conferences, for example by the Royal Society of Biology and WCMC. On a positive note, the European Environment Agency was still accepting bids for funding from the UK. A number of CCF organisations are watching carefully which laws will be taken over into UK law and which will be repealed (important e.g. pesticide rules etc).

6.3. CCF Hotdesks (HC)

CCF hotdesks are being used by members to a certain extent, but could still be used a lot more – we need to be careful because if we don't use them, we might lose them. In the short-term, the desks will be unavailable, because the current space is being turned into a meeting room. We will be able to use the library until a new space becomes available.

6.4 Constitutional Changes to the CCF (JS)

6.4.1 The Aims of the CCF (section 2.1) are to be amended (additions in bold, deletions crossed through) as follows:

“The Cambridge Conservation Forum exists to strengthen links and develop new synergies across the diverse community of conservation practitioners and researchers based in, **or working in**, and around Cambridge ~~working~~ at local, national and **/or** international levels in order to promote the conservation of wildlife.”

It was proposed pragmatically that we shouldn't identify the geographic area in detail, but leave this to Council when considering applications for membership of the CCF.

VOTE: unanimously agreed

6.4.2 Section 11.1 requires Council meetings to be held 3 times a year, but this has not been the practice for some time, so to regularize the arrangements, it was proposed that “The Council will meet as necessary but not less than **two** times annually”

VOTE: unanimously agreed

6.4.3 In a previous Council meeting, the Committee had been asked to look again at the quorum requirements for Council meeting votes. This was discussed and agreed that the current wording was still appropriate and should not be changed:

“A quorum of the Council shall exist when at least 8 Member Organisations or 15% of the Organisational Membership at the time are represented by delegates, whichever is the smaller.”

VOTE: unanimously agreed

6.5. Part time CCF administrator (HC)

There are concrete plans and possible funding to share an administrator 50:50 with the CCI. There should be progress by the next meeting.

6.6 Endangered Landscape Programme (ELP) (RM)

An expression of interest for The ‘Connected Fens’ project has been submitted under CCF auspices for an ELP grant, led by the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust. This would include the purchase of more land for the Great Fen, introduction of hydrological changes and the possible introduction of bison, as well as improving connectivity throughout the fens from the Great Fen to Ouse Fen and down to Wicken Fen. Decision on which projects go through to the second round will be made in October 2017 and then these will be whittled down to the final projects in February 2018.

7. Communications (HC)

Due to lack of time, this element was reduced at the meeting, except to note that all the groups are thriving as is our social media presence, with a wide range of meetings and workshops being organised. The website needs updating and could do with more functions and links. The executive committee is setting up a small working group to look at options and would welcome volunteers with expertise to help. It was noted that with the emergence of a ‘second newspaper’ in Cambridge the ‘*Cambridge Independent*’ there may

be openings for more interactions with the public and some articles from CCF members about their work.

8. Date of next CCF Council Meeting

TBA but in March 2018.



Paper 2_CCF



Paper

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