

Cambridge Conservation Forum Council Meeting 2018 AGM 2018

17.30- 19.00, Monday 19th March 2018

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)	AH
Josie Chambers	Membership Manager (UoC Geography)	JC
Keri Russel	Anglia Ruskin University	KR
Hazel Thornton	Marine Group (consultant)	
Pamela Abbott	Women in Conservation Leadership Convener (WCMC)	

David Allen	IUCN
Louise Bacon	Cambridge Bird Group
Sam Buckton	UoC Nature Society
Amy Burden	The Biodiversity Consultancy
Pete Carey	Plant Sciences CU
Edward Darling	Redlist Revival
Lizzie Duthie	Fauna & Flora International
Kevin Hand	CNHS
Aunald Jopling	CPARG
Vince Lea	Country Restoration Trust
Derek Murphy	Dep of Zoology, UoC
Lydia Murphy	Fauna & Flora International
David Noble	British Trust of Ornithology
Peter Pilbeam	Cambridge Mammal Group
Lucas Ruzowitzky	Citizen Zoo
Hazel Thornton	UNEP-WCMC/CCF Marine
Flora Tiley	Verisk
Thomas Starnes	RSPB/GIS group
Keith Virgo	TAA

Apologies

Ed Wombwell	CPPF
Pippa Heylings	Talking Transformation

1. Introduction (HC)

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

HC said that he wanted to move Council towards a more informal way of working and make it a more involved body for CCF. The CCF exists to engender discussion and networking between its members and Council should be an embodiment of this principle. As such, the Committee suggests that we move to more frequent, but shorter meetings and without providing refreshments, to discuss issues of importance as they arise and to get the reps' opinions and involvement in helping to take forward the CCF. There was general agreement that this would be a good way to proceed.

- *Action: to hold more frequent but more informal meetings of CCF Council*

1.2. Apologies as received

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting from the 6th September 2017 (HC)

- Vote to approve the Minutes: Approved nem. con.

- Matters arising – ACRE attended the last council meeting but wasn't listed.

3. Treasurer's Report (RM)

Current balance as of the 13/02/2018 is **£4828**

Money in: £57 Christmas Party (Dec17)

£661 CCF Annual Symposium (Feb18)

£326 donated by Will Simonson for his fee from the MPhil Leadership course

Money out: Event cost with no fee collected from participants

£140 CCF Council meeting (Sept17)

£176 CCF/Fens for Future Meeting (Sept17)

£13 Hayley Wood coppicing (Nov17)

£109 CCI services for out of hours

The CCF would like to thank Will Simonson in particular for his generous donation.

Vote to approve the Accounts (Edward Darling proposed, seconded by Keith virgo):

Approved nem. con.

4. Organisational Membership

4.1. No applications for membership were received

4.2. No resignations from membership were received

5. CCF organisational matters

5.1. The revised constitution has not been updated yet, but this will be done very soon and the version will be available on the website.

- Action: Committee to post revised constitution on the website

5.2. Website and Social Media

- Facebook has been quite dormant and needs new input. Facebook moderator position – Flora Tiley and Louise Bacon offered to help with this.
- Lizzy Duthie spoke about her experience at FFI in choosing your audience carefully: big public group will have more people, but a less open discussion whereas smaller private groups allow for more exchanges. The CCF Facebook group has about 2600 followers at the moment, but little engagement, which would reflect the same experience. She also queried our social media strategy – what did CCF want out of its activities. Google analytics could help us understand more about our website's usage etc. She offered to help CCF think about this further.
- KR reported on the need to update the website and reviewed recent progress of the website working group in looking into alternative platforms to Drupal
- Website – it was noted that much of this was out of date and we need to check and update each member's web-page. Ideally each member would have somebody who would be responsible for updating their page and for posting news and new job items – currently the news area is under-utilised.
- GDPR – KR noted that this is coming and that we are planning on how to be compliant with the new requirements.

Action: Flora Tiley and Louise Bacon will get more involved with Facebook.

Action: form a sub-group to develop a new/revised social media strategy.

Action: train reps to modify their organization's webpage and to post news/jobs

5.3 Social Activities

One effect of the David Attenborough Building (DAB) opening is that the people working for the big organisations within the building see more of each other, but the smaller members of the CCF see less of each other as the critical mass for pub nights and regular smaller casual meetings has been lost.

JS offered that 'Happy Hours' in the DAB would be a possibility

Pamela Abbott, who will not be available after June 18, made a list of events from last year:

- Hayley woods April 2017

- Between Earth and Sky Film premier April 2017

- CCF - summer social RSPB Fen Drayton June 2017
- Working party Hayley Woods
- Christmas party Dec 2017

Future events will be the forthcoming Hayley Wood Memorial Walk 20/04/18.

For 2018 it would be great to have: Summer Social, Hayley Woods coppicing, Christmas Party and 3 additional social events

She said that she will be stepping down from her active involvement as she has just accepted a new post based in Norfolk, which will require all of her energy! Council noted that it was very grateful for all her considerable contributions to the CCF over the years and wished her well. A full written report of CCF social activities is appended as Annex 1.

Following a discussion about the need for more help from members to help organize social and other events, it was proposed that groups of 3-4 members would be “randomly” allocated a slot in the year to organize an event to bring together the membership. Such events could be purely social, or might involve site trips, discussion groups etc. Jokingly referred to as the “CCF Lottery”. This has the potential to help members feel more engaged and part of the CCF community, and have more ownership over its programme of events.

- *Action: organize a rota for the CCF Lottery and alert members of their potential slots and partners, and provide brief guidance on what will be required.*

5.4 Logo

JC introduced the logo issue. There had been a members’ vote on 6 logos that had been put forward as part of a competition. The one that was most popular had now been revised, to try to encompass more of the nature and function of the CCF and was presented. Another potential logo that had been submitted to CCF after the original vote was also reviewed. Each Council member discussed what they liked and disliked about each logo, overall the vast majority preferred Roger Ingle’s revised submission – feeling that it cleverly encompassed the networking and natural world aspects of CCF remit. Various suggestions were made that should be passed on to the designer.

- *Action: Ask Roger Ingle to consider some slight design modifications to his suggested logo and to develop a finished version that we can use.*

5.5. Working Groups

- Marine group: (Hazel Thornton) 190 people on mailing list worldwide, the group organized events inc. lunch time talks. Last year the group organised a highly successful talk by Pierre-Yves Cousteau.
2018 is Coral Reef Year and more talks and films are planned
- Women in Conservation Leadership (Pamela Abbott): The group is chaired by Ali Johnson and after a fresh recruiting drive now has 9 members in the steering group. International Women's Day was celebrated in the newly opened 'Whale Hall' of the DAB with many women conservation scientist presenting their work and inspiring talk by Professor Rebecca Kilner from Cambridge's Department of Zoology. WICL is looking forward to the government's report of gender pay gap and has formed a sub-committee on 'structural change within organisations'. Applying for funding to increase possible projects and impact is the next goal.
- Management and Restoration Group (RM): The group is very active, organising visits to sites of interest (Lakenheath 2015, Roam Road 2016, Porto Meadows/Wandelbury 2017, Great Fen 2018).
- GI Group (Thomas Starnes) Are working on new methods and systems for GI. Thomas offered training sessions for later on in the year, which several reps found very interesting.

Full written reports are attached as Annex 2.

5.6 Summer Symposium

AH described the plans for the forthcoming summer symposium. The title will be: 'Rewilding and its effect on Nature and People'. The date for the symposium is the 28/29th September. It is likely that this will generate a great deal of interest and so will be a two-day symposium. Offers of volunteers to help organize the meeting will be gratefully received.

6. CCF & CCI (HC)

6.1. Hotdesks

The CCF Hotdesks have been moved to a new location in the "Birdlife Tower", but on the 1st floor, so there is now disabled access. We are very grateful to CCI for their support for these desks and would encourage all to make use of them, as they provide a great working space and opportunity to interact with the rest of the CCI.

6.2. Joint post with CCI

A 1st round application for a joint communications post to be shared between CCF and CCI has been successfully submitted to the Ellerman Foundation. This would be for 3 years and would help take some of the organisational and administrative roles currently undertaken by volunteers in the CCF, as well as providing more scope to generate activities and joint working with CCI. A more complete application will now be submitted. Ellerman foundation would likely to be more supportive if CCF members were able to commit some offers of funding to provide some matching of theirs, so it would be good if reps could enquire what might be possible from their organisations point of view.

- *Action: reps to explore whether their organisations might be able to contribute a small matched funding pot for the joint post.*

6.3 A paper had been circulated that described recent CCI Council activity (see Annex 3).

6.4 Endangered Landscape Programme (RM)

- The CCF bid for funding a major restoration project in the fens, led by the local Wildlife Trust had not been successful in the 2nd round.
- There will be funds available to help other organisations to develop other restoration projects – keep an eye open on the ELP website.

7. The future of the CCF (HC)

- After much discussion about the pros and cons of becoming a CIO, we have noted that other similar organisations, like the Cam Valley Forum have retained an Unincorporated Association status, but have registered as a charity with HMRC for tax purposes (in their case, to collect Gift Aid on their subscriptions). They also have purchased insurance to cover themselves for various eventualities.
- The CCF Committee proposes that, given we currently don't need to raise large amounts of funding or employ staff, that CCF should continue to be an Unincorporated Association for the time being, that we check that our procedures fulfil these requirements and that we obtain insurance for Public Liability, Employees Liability (as volunteers count as employees) and Trustees Liability. Current quotes for such insurance are between £80-£160.
 - Vote to approve the expenditure on insurance was approved.
- *Action: CCF to purchase Insurance.*

8. AOB

- Vince Lea asked whether any conservationists were familiar with trade unions that might be relevant for conservation practitioners. Only the Civil Service unions were known about.



Annex2 - CCF
Treasury Report 19th from CCF Special Int



Annex3 - Reports
19th from CCF Special Int



Annex4 - Report on
CCI activity.docx



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