



## Minutes of Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

#### 1.1 Present

Humphrey Crick (Natural England, V)	Chair
Roger Mitchell (ARCT, ARC-ESL, RSB, V)	Treasurer
Louise Bacon (Cambridgeshire Bird Club, V)	
Jessica Betts (FFI, V)	
Wendy Blythe (FECRA)	
Amy Burden (TBC, V)	
Pete Carey (Dept. Plant Sciences, V)	
Hilary Conlan	
Edward Darling (Red List Revival, V)	
Barbara de Waard (Biodiversity Business, V)	
Holly Griffin (UNEP-WCMC)	
Julia Grosse (CCF/ CCI)	
Aunald Jopling (CPARG, V)	
Vince Lea (Countryside Restoration Trust, V)	
Julia Mackenzie (ARU, V)	
Bryony Morgan (Women in Conservation Leadership group & Traffic,V)	
Cheryl Ng (TBC)	
David Noble (BTO, V)	
Peter Pilbeam (Cambridgeshire Mammal Group, V)	
Molly Robertson (UNEP-WCMC)	
Sam Sinclair (Biodiversify)	
Kit Stoner (Bat Conservation Trust, V)	
Charles Turner (Cam Valley Forum, V)	
Faye Vogely (BTO)	
Sue Wells (Marine Group)	

#### 1.2 Apologies:

Judith Schleicher (Vice chair), Annette Lanjouw (Arcus), Rachel Gartner (Birdlife), Stephen Tomkins (CVF/ Kingfisher Bridge), Nigel Cooper (Diocese of Ely), Kathy Wormald (Froglife), Richard Barnes (Knysna Basin Project), Martin Lester (Wicken Fen NT), Thom Starnes (RSPB), Katy Scholfield (Synchronicity Earth),

Peadar Brehony (UC Geography), Alec Christie (UC Zoology), Victoria Price (Vision Wild), Keith Virgo (TAA)

## **2. Minutes of Council Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

2.1. The minutes were proposed by Barbara de Waard and seconded by Hilary Conlan; they were accepted unanimously by vote

2.2. Matters arising: The new logo has been well-received

(Items 3 and 4 were swapped due to time constraints)

## **3. CCF Operations**

### **3.1. CCF Committee**

3.1.1. Holly Griffin and David Noble were elected unanimously for the posts of Hon. Secretary and Membership Coordinator respectively.

The post of communications manager is vacant following retiral of Keri Russell. A vote of thanks was offered to Keri. Julia has taken on a lot of Keri's role but there is a need for someone with website development experience to take on the update.

- ACTION: Barbara obtained a quote for website development some time ago and will revisit that.

### **3.2. Treasurer's Report**

Roger Mitchell presented the Treasurers update (annex 2). The matter of carbon offsetting for the Rewilding Symposium remains to be settled. Humphrey emphasised that any off-setting must involve new initiatives, not just fund something already existing.

- ACTION: Louise Bacon and Sue Wells will look into UKRI and World Land Trust's carbon offsetting policies respectively.

### **3.3 Recent and planned meetings**

Humphrey reported on recent meetings as in annex 3. Hayley Wood working party was rather poorly attended this year; thanks were expressed to Louise Bacon and Pamela Abbott for organising this event over many years.

Roger reported that there are plans for a 'Doubling Nature' symposium in February; more details to follow in the new year.

Several members will be taking part in the Student Conference in Conservation Science in March.

Members are invited to take part in Earth Optimism Day- either by bringing a stall to the DAB event or hosting an event at their own location.

### **3.4 Reports from CCF groups (see annex 4)**

Bryony Morgan reported that tThe Women in Conservation Leadership group recently presented to the MPhil students and are looking to recruit a student on to the steering committee. They are also planning a leadership coaching session and events for International Women's Day on 8 March 2020.

The Management and Restoration Group are planning visits for next year; potential sites are being identified; Caxton Moats, G's Farm (Roman Road), Gray's Farm (Redlist Revival), Kingfisher's Bridge and Cherry Hinton Brook were suggested.

The Marine group would appreciate more help with organisation. They will be planning an event for World Oceans Day in June.

As Arts, Science and Conservation group representative, Roger suggested that we may consider more arts-based CCF events following the success of the Waterlight film screening.

### 3.5 CCF communications

Hilary reported that there are four new moderators for the newsletter. The new 'highlights' version of the newsletter which is due to Mailchimp changes, is working well.

## 4. New Applicants

### 4.1 Biodiversify

Sam Sinclair explained that he represents a new consultancy which aims to solve organisations' problems and queries about their impact on biodiversity. They work in a range of sectors including the fashion industry, fisheries and illegal trade. Using their connections they put together expert panels to deal with their clients' issues. They would welcome the knowledge and breadth of expertise that CCF and CCI members could bring. In turn they can offer potential contracts and connections.

There was some discussion about 'for profit' members, but CCF already has some consultancy members so this was not thought to be an issue. Membership was agreed by vote.

### 4.2 The Federation of Cambridge residents' Associations (FeCRA)

Wendy Blythe explained that this is an umbrella organisation representing about 97 residents' association groups. They work in many neighbourhoods, helping members to improve and protect green spaces; set up 'friends of' groups such as that at Queens Green; and help manage local nature reserves (such as Paradise Nature Reserve). They work in partnership with the City Council and encourage youth involvement. They would like to join CCF to draw on local expertise, and can offer many local connections.

Membership was agreed by vote.

### 4.3 Nene Park Trust

The Trust were unable to attend. Humphrey explained their role as that of managing Nene Park in Peterborough. They already work with several local conservation organisations. Their location in Peterborough was agreed not to be an issue as precedent is already set by other members.

Membership was agreed by vote.

## **5. Future organisational status (annex 6)**

Roger recommended that CCF applies to be a CIO as this would not preclude any future merger with CCI, should that be the agreed course of action.

Humphrey and Roger suggested that there should be a meeting in February dedicated to this issue, and a vote taken on the way forward at that meeting. Faye suggested that a succinct document, explaining what the various options mean for CCF practically, should be circulated in advance.

- ACTION: Roger and Humphrey to prepare an explanatory document and arrange a date to meet in Q1 2020.

## **6. AOB**

Charles Turner, representing Cam Valley Forum, reported that they would be taking up issues with Anglian and Cambridge Water's use of water resources with OFWAT. They would be grateful if CCF members could sign a letter. It was agreed that individual members should do so if they wish though CCF as a body could not.