

MINUTES

BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 17th February 2010, 7.00 pm, Castle Hotel.

Attending: Fiona Aungier, Leslie Cook, Malcolm Hutcheson, John Inglis, Elizabeth Martin Fisher, John Rae, Enid Turnbull, M. Williams.

Apologies: Molly Hardie, Gill Young.

Item	Subject	Information and decisions to make
1	Minutes of last meeting (21st Oct)	Agreed
2	Matters arising not shown below	M Hardie has unfortunately broken her arm. JR supplied a card which all signed wishing Molly well.
3	Minutes Secretary	M has stepped down from taking the minutes as from 1 st .March 2010 and Elizabeth Martin Fisher has kindly agreed to take over. MW was thanked for her hard work.
4	Recent and forthcoming events	Recent. Wed 10 th Feb: Phil McClean, wildlife photographer. Excellent. FA to write letter of thanks. Sat 13 th Feb, 12.00 noon, Estuary Count. A successful outing, enhanced by the telescope brought by M McNeely. Forthcoming. <i>Thur 4th March FA to talk to Duns SWT on BWG.</i> JR has supplied additional photographs. <i>Sun 7th March – Ian Kille's Geology Day, 10.00., Palace Green Pavilion.</i> FA to e-mail members with details. Wed 10 th March: Graham Bell, "Siberian Dream". FA to contact him. Wed 12 th May AGM (display). FA still needs to book library for follow-up – and projector. <i>Berwick Save Our Squirrels prog. 2010 now available.</i> This was read to committee. Thank you, Elizabeth.
5	Further events	10 th Nov. Jackie Beaven from Butterfly Conservation will give a talk. Other topics, suggested were Bats, Botswana, Moths, Small Mammals, Lindisfarne. Group discussion opened other possibilities, to be explored.
6	Surveys	Some potential surveyors have signed up already. Anyone interested please contact us. LC has compiled very comprehensive bat programme. M Hutcheson suggested leaflet box in Library to hold BWG info. Excellent idea. FA to follow up. Assistant of Steve Betts is looking for a project. FA to contact Butterfly Conservation with view to setting one up to include BWG transect records. FA & LC to liaise.

7	List of members	Circulated to Committee, minus one phone no., as requested not to be divulged (fine). JR pointed out error in his e-mail address; JI has changed his. MW no longer has e-mail facility.
8	Records	Reports. Printing completed. Some sent/delivered to landowners with letter of thanks for the use of land – some yet to do (FA). Records. JR has handed 2009 records over to EYE – Francesca delighted. Janet Simkin helping with lower plant records. JR is collecting mammal & mole-hill records. NCC's Colin Marlee very pleased with bat and other records sent.
9	Pier Field – newly fenced areas	LC has contacted Judy Nicholson of Berwick Civic Society. FA has obtained details from Land Registry showing details of the sold plots and has and contacted David Feige who says planning permission might have been needed. FA to write to NCC stating BWG objections to selling off "unused" or "untidy" land without public consultation.
10	Donation from Tim Kirton	Thank you Leslie for chasing up. ET suggested BWG review funds before deciding how to spend donation. Grants of £1,000 - £4,000 available from OPAL. JR to look at prices for projector & stand.
11	Swifts	Rosemary Bell has suggested we could get swift nest boxes put up on Maltings, but LC warned that there may be issues of insurance. FA has been in touch with those concerned. May be possible to suggest developer or others erect boxes. Other developers locally are to be contacted re. making provision for swift access when building. JI – Haddington Town Council has experience of using swift boxes and may have some to dispose of. FA to follow up.
12	Town Walls safety plans	BWG's comments sent to NCC.
13	Any other business	FA & LC to meet English Heritage 3 rd .March re. Lords Mount to discuss removal of scrub vegetation and effect on bats. ET – E Ord Parish Council needs to know who owns an unkempt patch of land, with a view to taking it into Council ownership if no owner is found. ET to write to them expressing BWG support and suggesting wildlife be considered in any future plans.
14	Date/venue of next Cttee Meetings	17 th March at Castle, then 21 st April.