

## MINUTES

### BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 7.00 pm, Castle Hotel.

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

**Apologies:** Gill Young

Item	Subject	Information and decisions to make
1	<b>Minutes of last meeting (21<sup>st</sup> Oct)</b>	Agreed ( Please note, no Cttee. Mtgs. Nov or Dec. 09).
2	<b>Matters arising not shown below</b>	None.
3	<b>Royal Border Bridge</b>	Amco knew what was happening – just small amount of work, now completed, according to e-mail received from them. Council to be contacted about situation regarding lights.
4	<b>Governor's Garden</b>	Following letters by LC and others, request to demolish existing structures without rebuilding plans in place was turned down partly on grounds that it would create a brownfield site and with reference to bat survey. Rewarding to know that the survey had been taken into consideration. LC was thanked for dedicated work.
5	<b>Lords Mount</b>	Proposal by English Heritage to landscape the rough area between Lords Mount and Fields House above which bats feed. LC has received helpful reply inviting him to meet with them. NCC proposes to increase security on town walls to reduce accidents. M Hutcheson – leave grass longer e.g. 2 cuts p.a. which will also be good for wildlife. LC – don't increase lighting as will disturb important bat feeding area. NCC to be contacted.
6	<b>Pier Field – newly fenced area</b>	Protracted correspondence initiated by LC (from 18 <sup>th</sup> Aug 09), NCC states that BBC sold two areas in 2003 & 5 to private buyers because they were overgrown. LC wrote claiming that it set a precedent, i.e. that any land which became "neglegted" ("wild") could be disposed of without public consultation. NCC solicitor replied that he <i>believed</i> it did not. This is an appalling situation which must be resolved before other open areas are sold off causing possible change of habitat. FA to investigate further.
7	<b>Recent and forthcoming events</b>	<b>Happened.</b> Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan: Liza Cole: Life - but not as we know it. Good talk and turnout. <b>To come.</b> Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb: Phil M, wildlife photographer. (FA to correct spelling of name) Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 12.00 noon, Estuary Count. High tide 14.28. (Fallback date 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb at 11.00 a.m. , high tide 13.33). Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> March: Graham Bell, "Siberian Dream". Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> May AGM, with display which could transfer to library. FA to contact library.

		<b>Summer events</b> (as opposed to surveys). M.Hardy to contact Barry Prater re. moth walk. BWG is not to attend Green Festival this year.
8	<b>Surveys: Casual Records</b>	<p><b>Butterflies:</b> T the M and Cocklawburn transects as before. JI to ask permission for 1 day surveys end May, end Aug. at Mill Farm, Tweedmouth.</p> <p><b>Bats:</b> LC – 3 visits planned to The Avenue, also Brucegate/Lords Mount/Holy Trinity areas, also events for the public at Longridge &amp; Haggerston (L. C has devised programme).</p> <p><b>Small Mammals:</b> Continue National rolling survey programme spring &amp; autumn, and BWG surveys 3 days per summer month. JR reminded members to send in small mammal sightings for forthcoming Northumbria distribution maps.</p> <p><b>Estuary Birds:</b> Count days in spring, plus autumn instead of migrant walk?</p> <p><b>Coastal Grasslands:</b> (for NWT); FA to lead, including re-visiting Ewe Hill.</p> <p><b>Cocklawburn Photos:</b> Ongoing, with help of G.Y.</p> <p><b>Cocklawburn Reptiles:</b> JR to get permission to put down metal sheet to attract them.</p> <p><b>Wagtails:</b> Philomena still surveying. Thank you.</p> <p><b>Seashore:</b> (Little Beach); JR to check tides with Jenny, decide dates.</p> <p><b>OPAL</b> water survey (May)? More specific info. needed. FA interested in looking at Chara, separate survey for NWT but also indicates water quality.</p> <p><b>National Beach Survey:</b> we do again this year (September).</p> <p><b>Dragonflies:</b> M. Hutcheson to lead meeting at Cocklawburn Pond, May or June</p> <p><b>Lichens:</b> Perhaps next winter, when M.Ha and FA will know more about them?</p>
9	<b>Records</b>	<p><b>Reports.</b> LC has done report on Bats, JR on Small Mammals (x2) and Butterflies (x2). Grasslands (FA) still to come. All have been proof-read by M. Ha. Thank you LC, JR, M.Ha. FA to ask landowner's permission for this year's surveys. FA made list of who should be sent copies of reports; all reports &amp; data will be on website.</p> <p><b>Records.</b> JR has spent much time chasing up and collating our records to be sent to EYE and others. EYE have a new records form we can use if appropriate. (At meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan between JR and EYE they were most appreciative of our records). Thanks to JR and all the recorders.</p> <p>BWG is not to do Bioblitz at Ashington Community Woodland this year.</p>
10	<b>Any other business</b>	<p>LC – Haggerston need info. on nestbox cameras. FA to ask Maurice for advice.</p> <p>JR – It would be useful if committee members had members' details for ease of contacting. FA to ask members in Newsletter if they agree.</p> <p>M Hutcheson - will arrange to provide weather details for Newsletter etc. while away.</p> <p>JR – Members need soliciting for articles; M Hardie offered to do this – thank you.</p>
11	<b>Date/venue of next Cttee Meetings</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb at Castle, then 17 <sup>th</sup> March.