

**Minutes**

**BERWICK WILDLIFE GROUP  
COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
7.00 pm, Castle Hotel.**

**Attending:** Fiona Aungier, Leslie Cook, John Inglis, Enid Turnbull, M. Williams.

**Apologies:** John Rae, Elizabeth Bamford, Molly Hardie, Malcolm Hutcheson

**By invitation:** Gillian Simmons of BBLSP.

Item	Subject	Decisions Made	Outcome
1	<b>Minutes of last meeting (Feb.)</b>	Agreed following amendment: that JR had asked that updated membership lists be circulated to all committee members.	
2	<b>Matters arising not shown below</b>	None.	
3	<b>BBLSP</b>	<p>FA welcomed Gillian Simmons of BBLSP who told members that the Community Plan was being 'refreshed' prior to the change to a unitary authority so that progress could forge ahead.</p> <p>More than 300 consultation documents had been either posted out or made available in public places, but only 26 responses had been received!! GS talked on the changes to local government, future of BBLSP and role of consultation bodies in the future.</p> <p>Nature Conservation Action Plan has now been changed to include designated areas as well as Berwick within a county-wide remit.</p> <p>A mechanism should be included to enable the new authority to set up Community Forums which could advise on specific areas of concern.</p> <p>The Masterplan has moved to its second format with a consultation period after 2<sup>nd</sup>.May. There will be a major publicity campaign. Gillespies no longer leading the project, it is now KSA.</p> <p>FA asked for clarification of 'conservation' and 'environment' in the document as it was ambiguous. GS agreed to change it to conserving 'ecology of the natural environment'.</p> <p>LC said that Community Councils in Scotland were working well. GS replied that new Community Forums are to be set up to ensure all planning applications are widely notified to the public and groups. Plans will eventually be available on the internet.</p> <p>GS noted various other suggestions from the group (e.g. nature conservation not only near the Nat. Park) and said she would include them in the Refreshed Community Plan.</p> <p>FA thanked GS for her contribution to the meeting.</p>	

4	<b>Recent/forthcoming events</b>	<p><b>Indoor meetings.</b> David Rollo's talk was excellent. Microphone would have helped. Extremely high turnout.</p> <p><b>AGM</b> is 7<sup>th</sup> May, speaker John Rae</p> <p><b>December Talk</b> to be given by Richard Wales on 10<sup>th</sup>. Subject tba. LC to check availability of hall.</p> <p><b>Outdoor meetings.</b> Spring walk at Plantation, Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> April. Led by group members. JI offered to cover 'birds' if he is available.</p> <p><b>Displays.</b> BOG potato day at Kelso very well attended. Lots of interest in BWG memberships.</p>
5	<b>Surveys</b>	<p><b>Squirrel surveys</b> – 3 transects completed. Feeders have been installed in Plantation with BBC permission.</p> <p><b>Beach Survey.</b> High tides had left Little Beach clean, but the Pier Road site was badly polluted. Two new helpers came.</p> <p><b>Butterflies</b> (T the M and Cocklawburn) begin Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>. Cocklawburn - one group to start with; 3 groups for T the M. <b>Summer Birds</b> 4<sup>th</sup> May. <b>Membership</b> of squirrel/butterfly groups, ET and Molly H to be the named members.</p> <p><b>BBC/Woodland Trust</b> wants records. Item carried forward to next meeting.</p> <p><b>Sarah Dulwich of RSPB wants volunteers</b> to survey on a farm at Beal. JI, JR, Malcolm H to be asked.</p>
6	<b>Grants</b>	FA – Northern Gasworks grants 2008 not yet on stream. Verbal offer of £50 from Morrisons for litter pickers etc (spent already).
7	<b>Goody Patchy</b>	Ross Weddell says Network Rail land above it to be sold. Is earmarked for industrial use.
8	<b>Cittaslow</b>	Tub planting to be carried out in Marygate.
9	<b>Tesco</b>	We haven't done anything yet. Need to make suggestions re. planting on site.
10	<b>Cocklawburn</b>	Following meeting with Natural England, FA, Malcolm H & EB to do fixed point photos thrice yearly to record erosion and vegetation change. Currently vegetation looks good. Also do butterfly transect, and record any Pirri-pirri Burr.
11	<b>Any other business</b>	<p><b>Wagtails, Tappee Fen.</b> FA now has all data on computer up to 2007. Committee would like to thank Plilomena Johnson for observing and recording wagtails almost daily throughout the year. JR said it highlights what motivated individuals can achieve, and it is a powerful piece of work that emphasises the importance of very small green/wildlife areas in the urban environment.</p>
12	<b>Date/venue of next Cttee Meeting</b>	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April – then Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> May.