

WARRINGTON NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING

GRAPPENHALL LIBRARY – TUESDAY 5th MARCH 2019 at 7pm

Present – Roger Lamming (RL), Rob Smith (RS), Tony Parker (TP), Paul Speake (PS), Brian Martin (BM), Les Jones (LJ)

Apologies – Geoff Settle (GS), Ian Greaves (IG), Eric Fletcher (EF)

Introduction – In the absence of GS, RL took the chair and welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of AGM 3 Dec.2018 – Accepted as a true record of the meeting

Matters Arising – RS report of Croft Grasslands not received by all. RS to re-send. **ACTION – RS**

LWS reports to be produced. These are ongoing

Chair's Report – GS had sent a note indicating he had a clash of appointments but all items are dealt with below.

Secretary's Report – All items are covered below

Treasurer's Report – There has been no further expenditure since the AGM last December

The Future of the WNCF – This was discussed due to membership falling, nil attendance at meetings or events other than by Committee members. However, there is a strong following on facebook (600 people) it was unanimously decided that the WNCF should continue. Key words that in future will define our role are – Networking, Response to key issues and threats, advice and reporting. In addition we will continue to carry out site surveys and produce reports and ensure that issues are reported on facebook and cross referenced with the web site. GS has offered to use these sites together with the most up to date membership list to engage those people who wish to retain an interest that that future communications can be better targeted. Committee members present, thanked GS for this offer and wish to take him up. **ACTION – GS**

AGMs will continue to be held in accordance with the Constitution.

Warrington Guardian Articles – No longer to be produced but the newspaper to be built into the communications referred to above.

Planning Issues – The Warrington Local Plan (Proposed Submission Version) was discussed. RL and GS had carried out initial examination and both agree that respect has been paid to nature conservation in as much as LWSs have been protected. However, there was some confusion in that LWSs had been listed under RIGs and there is no geological value in many of them. GS – could this be raised in your negotiations with the WBC next week?. RS raised a point about the removal of trees to pave way for office blocks that remain unoccupied. Again could this be raised **ACTION – GS.**

Concerns were also raised about changes at New Hall Farm, Rixton (Ref 34410/2019) in connection with the power station and 2 applications at Colliers Landfill, Rixton (Ref. 34423/2019 & 34424/2019) in respect to clay extraction and mitigation. Members were encouraged to examine the applications and raise any concerns relative to conservation interests. **ACTION – ALL**

GMEU have been contacted by WBC over the cement works application but had not received the requested EIA. BM reported that GMEU were frequently having applications referred to them by WBC. Which is encouraging.

Sightings – Risley Moss: Common Crane, 2 Short Eared Owls, Woodcock, Snipe, 300 flock of Crows and Jackdaws, Starling mermeration.

Woolston Eyes: Long Eared Owl, Marsh Harrier.

Silver Lane Ponds: Widgeon, Goosanders

Grappenhall Area: 2 Ravens, Red Kite

Across the Borough: early sightings of bees, butterflies and bats indicating mild winter conditions.

AOB – PS reported that funding had been secured for the re-construction of the tower at Risley Moss through contributions by WREN, WBC as well as Donations to RIMAG and matched funding.

BM reported that funding was in place to develop the wetland area at Woolston Eyes Bed No. 4 with work commencement being imminent.

RS has produced a book on Amphibians and Reptiles based on his survey work at Risley Moss.

Next Meeting – 4th June 2019. Grappenhall Library 7pm

Minutes taken by RL.