

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Held at the University of Stirling on 3rd May 2007

Welcome and Apologies

The chairman and trust director, Professor Dave Goulson welcomed 12 members to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Lara Goulson (BBCT Director) and Lucie Southern (BBCT Conservation Officer).

Chairman's Report

Dave Goulson gave a summary of the early history of the trust, its objectives and achievements over the last year, as outlined in the Annual Report. To date the trust has:

- built up a membership of over 1500 in its first year.
- recruited two conservation officers and is planning to appoint an administrative assistant
- produced an education pack for distribution to Scottish primary schools
- taken over the land management of a 8ha site at RSPB Vane Farm, Kinross, for the creation of a bumblebee wildflower meadow.
- launched a national bumblebee survey 'Beewatch 2007'
- part funded two PhD students
- entered a partnership with the British Trust for ornithology to include bumblebees in their 'Garden Birdwatch' scheme.
- launched a national bumblebee nestbox trial.
- enjoyed wide-scale coverage in the British media, which has resulted in a large increase in the membership base.

Ben Darvill (BBCT director) added that the Beewatch initiative had resulted in over 2000 responses from the public and a further 4000 data forms have been downloaded from the website.

Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 30 March 2007

Bridget England gave the financial report. The trust was reported to be in a good financial position, with an income of £103,000 in its first year. £60,000 of that came from grants for specific purposes or projects and just over £40 000 from memberships and donations. The year end balance was £47,837, £21,000 of which was restricted income i.e. assigned to specific projects.

Although £40,000 came in from memberships and donations, it was estimated that £21,000 had been spent gaining these funds, a ratio of roughly 2:1. However, it was observed that that ratio is likely to decrease as the trust becomes established and memberships are renewed from year to year.

£30,000 was spent on charitable activities in the first year, with most of that assigned to management at Vane farm and the education/crofter's advisory pack.

It was agreed at the meeting that the trust should try to keep a monetary reserve of around £30,000 at all times. Although available funds (discounting restricted income) stood at £27,000 at 30

March 2007, a large number of memberships have been taken out since then so the trust currently has slightly over £30,000 in reserve.

Thanks is due to Jimmy Oswald for helping the trust to prepare the annual accounts.

Election of Directors

Dave Goulson, Lara Goulson and Ben Darvill all resigned from the posts as directors. They were then unanimously voted back in to post by those present at the AGM.

Other relevant Business

Dave Goulson suggested that the trust might benefit from appointing a patron. Likely candidates were put forward, including David Attenborough, Bill Oddie, Monty Don, Bill Turnbull and Kate Humble. After some discussion, a vote was taken in favour of approaching Kate Humble.

Thanks

Dave Goulson finished the meeting by thanking those present for attending.

Approved and dated this _____ day of _____ 20____ .

Approved by: _____

