

# Minutes of the AGM of the Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2016, 18:45-20:00  
Network Rail Offices, 151-155 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

## 1 Present

Jess Owen, Tarryn Wyman, Rachael Iveson, Erik Paterson, Len Howcutt, Helen Lundie, John Fowbert, Lauren Lochrie, Richard Weddle, Salma Rahman, Brian Beck, Susie Coyle, Roger Downie, John Sweeney

## 2 Apologies

James Stead, Maggie Ferguson, Chris McInerny, Ewan Kane

## 3 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Roger agreed to take minutes of the meeting; no minutes of previous meeting were available. Brian Beck noted that he had taken rough notes from previous meeting which he would type up and make available.

## 4 Treasurer's report

No formal report provided at meeting but appended below; expenditure of £200 noted on new book (see A.O.B).

Funds as of last AGM (18 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2015)	£530.89
Withdrawals	-£200.00
Receipts	+£nil
Closing Balance (24 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 2016)	£330.89

## 5 Membership Report

No report available; Ewan Kane unable to continue in this role.

## 6 Election of office bearers

It was agreed by group consensus that membership secretary and treasurer roles should be combined.

Chairman: John Sweeney stands down, Brian Beck replaces.

Secretary: Erik Paterson to remain.

Membership Secretary & Treasurer: Ewan Kane & Maggie Ferguson respectively step down, Susie Coyle replaces.

Minutes Secretary: Rachel Iveson takes post.

Ordinary members: Salma Rahman, and Lauren Lochrie.

## 7 Projects

### 7.1 Amphibians in Drains

John Sweeney reported on devices to prevent amphibians dying in drains. John has had no formal contact with GCG as yet, he intends to approach them once the report is available for them to consider. John is also considering using fruit cage netting to ascertain whether this will prevent amphibians from falling in drains in West Dumbartonshire; will write a report on effectiveness, and will welcome volunteers to help.

### 7.2 East Kilbride Amphibian Census

Erik Paterson reported on long-term survey effort in East Kilbride area; Erik has written an article on the results for the Glasgow Naturalist. Erik will let people know when surveys are happening. Richard requested that records, from this and other projects, be submitted to the Glasgow Museums BRC database. Lauren noted that the Froglife app will be able to help with such work.

### 7.3 Glasgow Frogspawn Count

Dave Garner not present, but hopes for a good effort on this during spring. Eilidh Malcolm is covering some areas in Easterhouse; Glasgow Ranger service help, but number depleted these days.

### 7.4 Cleddans and Cochno

Brian Beck reported on some surveying he had done at Cleddans, Robroyston, and Cochno.

### **7.5 Glasgow University master's Projects**

Roger Downie reported on Masters Projects undertaken at Gartcosh (great crested newt population trends) and Frankfield loch (Use of under-road tunnels by migrating amphibians). Both had presented results at the recent Herp Workers meeting in England. Chris Cathrine is using some of the results to revise great crested newt conservation guidelines for Scotland.

## **8 Any Other Business**

### **8.1 Amphibians and Reptiles of Scotland**

Erik Reported on Progress of Pete Minting and Chris McInerny's book on the amphibians and reptiles of Scotland: this will be available soon as a free download. Those wanting a hard copy will be invited to subscribe. Erik and Roger have seen layouts, and it looks great. The book will be formally published by the Glasgow Natural History Society.

### **8.2 Jack Gibson Records**

Richard Weddle reported that the status of the Jack Gibson records has not yet been dealt with; Richard thinks CARG would be the appropriate body to request the removal of the dubious records from the National Biodiversity Network database. It would first be necessary to follow up and evaluate the references in Dr Gibson's 'Clyde Atlas' publications; John Sweeney stated his willingness to help.

### **8.3 New Lecturer at UWS**

Roger mentioned the arrival of Frances Orton, an amphibian specialist, as a new lecturer at UWS Paisley, and noted that once she is well settled in, we should invite her to join CARG.

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting was agreed to be: *Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 6:45pm* at the Network Rail Offices as Usual. (Parties interested in attending should notify Erik Paterson)

## **10 Thanks for use of Venue**

Thanks recorded to Brian Beck for use of premises and provision of refreshments; and to retiring office-bearers for their work.

*N.B. Dave Garner will be speaking on Glasgow's revised Biodiversity Action Plan in a lecture to Glasgow Natural History Society, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30pm in the Boyd Orr Building, University of Glasgow: all welcome.*