

Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group

Meeting:	AGM - minutes	23 rd February 2017
Location:	Network Rail Offices	18:45

Item	Notes	Actions
1	Welcome by Brian Beck	
2	Apologies: Susie Coyle, Jackie Cork, Colin McPherson	
3	Matters from last meeting: none	
4	NGO Update	
4a	Froglife: Alasdair Lemon (Trainee Dragon Finder Project Officer) <i>Year of the Toad</i> includes toad focused projects, and a review of Toads of Roads in Scotland. Funding secured for creation of ponds in Dundee (nature reserve and a local allotment). Applying for funding for pond creation in Fife (2 sites) Green Pathways sessions set-up on a weekly basis.	
4b	ARC: Pete Minting New project: <i>GCN Detectives</i> In addition to school engagement visits ARC are conducting eDNA on a number of ponds across Scotland and looking to set up a number of long term monitoring sites. Volunteers needed for eDNA of ponds around Glasgow (training provided). Torching ideally to be some done at the same time. Volunteers needed for long term monitoring of ponds (kit and training can be provided). Looking for up to 14 locations. Contact Pete Minting for details on volunteer opportunities, including involvement in school talks.	Volunteer opportunities x2: eDNA/torching surveys around Glasgow. Long term monitoring.
5	Treasurer's report: Due to change over in treasurer position no statement is available. Last statement from April 2015, roughly £340. Roger Downie will continue the process to get set-up as signatory for account, with Brian Beck as the second signatory. Cover letter from CARG required. Previous signatories John Sweeny and Maggie.	Roger Downie to set up new signatories with bank. EP to provide letter to confirm identity and permission of RD and BB to act as signatories
6	Membership report: One new member: Sally Clark (still to pay). Post meeting note; New member Dan Brown – joined at meeting, paid.	Sally Clark to pay £1 fee.
7	Election of office bearers: to remain as: Chair: Brian Beck Secretary: Erik Paterson Membership secretary and Treasurer: Roger Downie Minutes secretary: Rachael Iveson-Brown	
8	Projects/Discussion	

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8a	<p>Amphibian Monitoring at Seven Lochs (Scott Ferguson, Project co-ordinator)</p> <p>Seven Lochs aims to create a large scale nature park. Scott is hoping for some advice to help focus the future of the project:</p> <p>How can we raise awareness of the key species at the site?</p> <p>How can we improve the habitat for key species?</p> <p>Can the habitat of key species be extended within the site?</p> <p>Advice on the housing development adjacent to the wetland habitat.</p> <p>Advice on the planned road at Gartcosh and what can be done to reduce the impact.</p> <p>Keen to be involved with CARG/Froglife.</p>	<p>Call for advice.</p> <p>Anyone who could help please contact Scott Ferguson.</p>
8b	<p>GCN Monitoring, Gartcosh & Livingston (Erik Paterson)</p> <p>Erik is monitoring two sites: Gartcosh and Livingston.</p> <p>Gartcosh: monitoring ponds as part of his degree – volunteers required to help monitor during the whole night (dusk to dawn), six repeat visits.</p> <p>Livingston: two ponds, torching. As many visits as possible, mainly on weekends.</p>	<p>Volunteer opportunities x2:</p> <p>Gartcosh: All night surveys.</p> <p>Livingston: weekend, torching.</p>
8c	<p>GCN Monitoring Richard Weddle</p> <p>Roughly 12 ponds in East Dumbartonshire require regular monitoring (to take over from previous volunteers who are unfortunately unable to continue). Torching only.</p> <p>Contact Brian for more information on locations.</p>	<p>RW to provide location details to BB, who in turn will act as coordinator.</p> <p>Volunteer opportunities:</p> <p>Min. 2 people for regular monitoring, mainly torching.</p>
8d	<p>Amphibian survey training in Dalmellington, Erik Paterson</p> <p>Erik is delivering herptile survey training, details are on the CARG facebook page.</p>	<p>Volunteer opportunities:</p> <p>Min. 2 people for regular monitoring, mainly torching.</p>
8e	<p>Housing development in Balmaha, Lorna Hall</p> <p>Affordable housing scheme in Balmaha, currently in planning for 22 houses. Area of forestry adjacent to village, roughly 57 hectares of Forestry Commission Scotland land. The development area is 8 hectares. Trees in development area were clear felled roughly 15 years ago and natural regeneration has taken place. A number of protected species are in the area: slow worm and adder observed on site and otter, newts also expected.</p> <p>Etive Ecology did a survey, although unknown if EcIA was done.</p> <p>SSSI's x 2 nearby – potential connectivity through site?</p> <p>Roger Downie mentioned a well known reptile site nearby – recommended getting in touch with Chris McInerny for more information.</p> <p>Legislation: the local development plan requires 'net biodiversity</p>	<p>Call for advice.</p> <p>Anyone who could help please contact please contact Lorna Hall.</p> <p>CARG could contact Local MSP Bruce Crawford (slow worm champion) – put forward view of CARG.</p>

Commented [EB1]: Is this correct and was agreement reached to carry out this action as a group?

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	<p>gain'. Refer to Nature Conservation (Scotland) 2004 Act, duty on Statutory Undertakers (e. g. LA's, etc.) to have "no loss to biodiversity and where possible achieve a net improvement". Suggestion to look into how this would fit, or not, into the development plan.</p> <p>Increased access could be an issue – has a traffic management plan been conducted?</p> <p>Emily Cutts may be able to provide advice on getting voices heard. (North Kelvin Meadow campaign).</p> <p>Balmaha Biodiversity Community Action: website: BBCA.scot Planning application search: 'land to east of Montrose House' lornaholl@gmail.com</p>	
8f	<p>RSPB Day of Nature, Lochwinnoch, Erik Paterson Sunday 11th June CARG volunteers requested to attend. Erik has some banners (and Froglife leaflets?). Activities include pond dipping. Suggestions for other activities welcome. Please contact Erik if interested.</p>	<p>Volunteer opportunity: CARG stand at RSPB reserve, pond dipping.</p>
9a	<p><u>Any other business:</u> Brian Beck: an allotment Cleddans Burn ponds area had recently previously been flooded. Extensive engineering works in evidence following recent survey by BB (February 2017). Call for volunteers to help survey the area.</p>	<p>BB to contact LA's and construction company currently on site to prevent / minimise harm to local species.</p> <p>Volunteer opportunity: Surveys of ponds.</p>
9b	<p>John Sweeny: Old data from Jack Gibson. John is happy to go through database to remove questionable records: advice sought on process. Option 1: Remove all records from J Gibson (time saving). Dan Brown highlighted that this approach has been used for ornithological records. Option 2: create a credibility scale to determine which records to keep and which to delete (time consuming), but John would like some help with the credibility scale.</p>	<p>If option 2 is taken, call for small number of people to go through credibility scale and records.</p>
9c	<p>Salma highlighted potential error in the Constitution. Post meeting updates; Error identified and will be rectified. Subsequent correspondence had identified opportunity to review constitution. RW had contributed with suggestion on group key aspirations.</p>	<p>Roger Downie to look into it.</p> <p>RD has since volunteered to review constitution</p>
9d	<p>Richard Weddle: Botanic Gardens are having a BioBlitz on 2nd</p>	<p>Volunteer</p>

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	September – request for volunteers to have a CARG stand, pond dipping?	opportunity: CARG stand
9e	Pete Minting: 'Reptiles and Amphibians of Scotland' book available online as a pdf. Require up front payment if book is to be printed. General comments around the table imply that a number of members would be willing to pay upfront.	
9f	John Sweeny: Amphibians in Drains Two sites: Bearsden and Douglas golf course. Request for volunteers to help save some amphibians!	Volunteer opportunities: please contact John if interested.
9g	Scott Ferguson: advice request on wetland creation. They are struggling to find plants for wetland creation. Local provenance would be ideal. Does anyone have advice on which plants and where to get hold of them? Scott has found a source in England, but is concerned about risk of disease.	Volunteer opportunities: Call SF for to propose advice.
10	Date of next meeting: 7 th November 2017	
11	Thanks for use of venue.	