

**Butterfly Conservation East Scotland Branch  
Committee Meeting 26 September 2022 (via Zoom)**

**1.Attendees**

Apithanny Bourne, Suzanne Smith, Richard Buckland, Gillian Fyfe, Helen Rowe, Katty Baird, Michael Scott, David Lampard, Cathy Caudwell, Glyn Edwards, Mark Cubitt, Chris Stamp.

Apithanny welcomed Chris Stamp to the Committee. Chris has taken on the role of Perthshire Organiser from Cathy who is now the CMR for East Perthshire.

**Apologies**

Colin Whitehead, Elspeth Christie

**2.Approval of last minutes**

Minutes of last meeting approved.

**3.Outstanding actions from last meeting**

Outstanding actions will be discussed as part of the rest of the agenda

**4.General updates-Apithanny.**

BC have launched a 2026 strategy with 3 priorities:

Species

Landscapes

Involving the public.

They have admitted that it was launched too early and there have been a few issues.

Before the end of December there will be national workshops on each priority. 4 branch members are invited to attend each one so that the priorities can be tailored to the branches' needs.

The first workshop is on 4<sup>th</sup> October and will be about creating wild spaces.

There are no dates yet for the others, but Apithanny will circulate them once she has them and we can decide who will attend them.

**Branches**

There is still a lot of dissatisfaction in the English branches, particularly concerning the details in the membership data base being wrong and the disruption in the financial team – there was a new finance team put in place in April and there was a backlog of emails and expense claims. Richard has an issue with opening the membership files which need a password to open them. (Glyn will send Richard the password he has for the files). Head Office are working on resolving these issues. Our branch has not had any issues claiming expenses.

The CEO is meeting with all branch chairs and Apithanny has her meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

The committee would like Apithanny to discuss if there will be a replacement for Shona who was a key member of the Scottish Team. Some of her duties are currently being carried out by Anthony McCluskey and Polly Philpot. Apithanny said that Julie was keen to have one

system for the whole of the UK and not individual organisations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

From the membership email Richard/Glyn received we had 921 branch members at the end of March and received £5484 income from membership fees.

#### **First Aid**

We are planning to run a First Aid course with the South West Branch. ( Since the meeting SW Branch have dropped out of the plan). The first aid training will cost £700-800. We are looking at doing this in early spring. This is aimed at people who carry out events or work parties. Michael and Katty definitely want to do it. If there are any other branch members/volunteers who would benefit from first aid training, please let Apithanny know .

Also please make sure anyone running an event has a first aid kit. Suitable ones are readily available and cost £30-40. The cost can of course be claimed from the Branch funds.

#### **4. Branch Finances**

As of August, we had just under £14000 in general funds. We need to find ways to use this money as it is not helping lepidoptera by sitting in a bank account

£1000 of this is committed to David Hill for NBA work in the Borders.

Mark reported that the bucket moth traps have been very successful. He will make more if there is a demand for them. Mark has capacity for about 20 traps a year and if anyone wants one then please get in touch with Mark. The branch is happy to fund these though to date the project has funded itself.

Helen asked if she could have a banner/display board to keep in Aberdeenshire, ideally one that would be good for outdoor use. We do have 2 banners available for events but obviously the large distances within the Branch area means that these items can be difficult to share. There may be a BC shop opening where we can buy branded materials. Basically the message is that if you need things to enhance events the put forward your requests. Michael would like more GPS units. For the NBA project in the Borders it is often useful to be able to show the route to the site as well as the grid ref fore the site itself. Apithanny and Glyn have a unit that are available. Michael to let us know if he wants these sent to him. There are also phone apps that provide the same data that can be exported to other files- Mark and Chris can probably give details if required. A list of current Branch assets is attached-some of these are in constant use by the holder and some are available for other people to use.

Travel expenses. Mark asked if expenses to cover survey work could be claimed-some trips to look for rare moths can involve long drives. The Branch can cover these costs-obviously car sharing should be used where possible. Most charities have a standard pence per mile rate for travel-Glyn will find out if BC has one.

Chris asked if we are able to use our funds to pay farmers for conservation activities. Whilst this is not something we have done in the past it is possible. Any proposal would best be presented to Tom Prescott who has experience in these matters.

#### **6.Update on distribution maps**

Mark has produced the maps and put them on the website, with data up to 2019. The maps are on the BC website so we don't have immediate information about how many people are viewing/using them.

The question was raised about how often we will get data and how up to date will it be? Apithanny will ask at her meeting with the CEO.

Gillian has produced maps for VC 85 which she would like to put on the Branch website.

Mark will look into this.

Gillian would also like historic data (pre2011) for VC85. Mark thinks he can provide her with this data from the records used to create the Branch maps.

### **7.Regional updates**

David confirmed that the Rannoch Brindled Beauty has been found in the Angus glens. After the initial finding a follow up survey found several more on fence posts. Details will be shared in the newsletter

Richard was impressed with Gillian's report on the Fife species and he and Simon Metcalfe are hoping to produce one for the Lothians next year.

Cathy said she had carried out some great collaborative surveys with David Hill and has sites earmarked for conservation activities-mostly scrub removal.

There have been 2 events with Chris Stamp for people to learn about Purple Hairstreaks, both well attended with the one at Loch Leven having 30 attendees.

Helen said that a new moth species has been found in Aberdeenshire and there have been lots of successful events.

Helen has over £100 from her donation box which she will get transferred to Branch funds.

### **8.AOB**

It is unlikely that members and recorder meetings will return to Battleby. One proposal is that the meetings are in a different place each year with the Branch for that area organising the day. Further discussions will take place about this. Since the meeting Anthony has provisionally booked the A.K.Bell library in Perth for a hybrid Recorders Gathering.

### **9.Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be in spring, if in person it would be in Edinburgh possibly coupled with some event.

The future plan would be to have a spring in person meeting and an Autumn meeting on Zoom.

Apithanny will send out a poll for the April meeting.

### **Circulation of Minutes**

All Committee members, Diane Garland, CMRs, CBRs.