

## **Butterfly Conservation East Scotland Branch Committee Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (via Zoom).**

### **1. Attendees**

Apithanny Bourne, , Richard Buckland, Gillian Fyfe, Helen Rowe, Katty Baird, Michael Scott, David Lampard, Cathy Caudwell, Glyn Edwards, Mark Cubitt, Chris Stamp, Colin Whithead and Tom Prescott.

Apologies. S Smith.

### **2. Threatened species workshop with Tom Prescott.**

One of BC's key strategies is to halve the number of threatened butterflies and moths by 2026. Tom presented details for each species on the 'threatened list' that are relevant to East Branch. The Powerpoint presentation is attached.

Whilst the Scotland team will lead on many of the species there are lots of opportunities for the Branch to get involved.

Initially a lot of the effort will be concentrated on survey activities There are lots of historic dots on the maps and we need to establish whether the species is still present(it is possible that the site has not been surveyed for many years. Unfortunately not all the maps are up to date so it is worth consulting the County Recorder for the latest data. There is also scope to identify sites where conservation activity is required. The Scotland team will be able to advise and possibly organise such activities.

The Branch needs a plan of what it intends to do to assist with the achievement of the strategy. Apithanny will set up a Google document based on Tom's slides so we can say what we intend to do, who is going to do it, when it is going to be done, and what resources are needed.

For several of the moth species there are pheromone lures available to attract the moths. The Branch agreed to pay for these lures for anyone who wants to target one of these species. People should purchase the lures themselves and claim the money back from the Branch. (Expense claim form attached)

The Branch has considerable funds and it was agreed in principle that we could consider using contractors/interns to carry out some of the survey and conservation activities-especially on some of the remoter sites.

Tom may be able to recommend suitable contractors.

### **3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting (Sept 2022)**

The minutes were approved

### **4 Outstanding issues from last meeting.**

Travel expenses for survey work. The Scotland team is currently reviewing this item. It is a question of achieving a balance between what is affordable and what constitutes essential survey activity. The Branch will probably adopt whatever policy the Scotland team proposes.

Action-Apithanny to liaise with Scotland team.

Membership files. Richard was having difficulty opening these files but reported the issue is now resolved.

## **5 General updates. Apithanny.**

**Personnel.** Dai Rees has left BC and Tom Prescott is now Head of Conservation for Scotland. David Hill has been promoted to Conservation Manager and an additional Conservation manager will be appointed shortly.

**Finance Team.** Recent issues with the finance team have now been resolved. If anyone has issues with expenses claims please contact Apithanny.

**Health and Safety.** There will be a review of H and S in 2023. There are concerns that no incidents have been reported. Training of First Aiders is considered important (3 people from East Branch have recently been trained). There will be an action plan produced following consultation with the Branches. In the meantime please ensure a Risk Assessment is completed for all events.

**Membership.** Another area where there have been issues with up to date information. Again this has now been resolved.

**Volunteer database.** A new volunteer database is being developed. Roll out of the new system will start in the autumn with all volunteers included by March next year.

**One-stop shop.** BC is setting up a one-stop shop where Branches will be able to purchase everything required for events, eg banners, display boards etc..

**Branch Newsletter.** Julie has stated that all Branches must produce at least one hard copy

newsletter per year. Part of the commitment to members is that they will receive a newsletter and not all members are equipped to see the on line versions. The team will look at the best way to incorporate the currently quarterly newsletters into a hard copy version.

## **6 Treasurer's Report. Colin.**

At the end of this financial year we will have approx. £13000 in the bank. We can expect another £5000 later in April giving us £18000. This is too much money to have sitting in the bank where it does not help butterflies or moths. It was agreed that the money should be used to support activities in Scotland. Some possible uses are given in Item 2 of these minutes. In the past we have supported the Bog Squad and some of Anthony's activities and the Scotland team were asked to highlight any areas where additional funding is required. Tom and Apithanny will keep in touch to identify any areas where funding is needed. If you have specific projects in mind where funding would be useful please let Apithanny know. The Branch is always willing to support training activities. Michael said TCV were running more First Aid courses if anyone was interested.

## **7 Regional updates.**

**Lothian.** Emulating the excellent newsletter produced by Fife Lothian are intending to produce one this year. Chris raised concerns about some of the records approved by Lothian. I am not sure if anything was decided but a resolution to the issue would be good.

**Fife.** Gillian would like a Fife Organiser, and someone who could do talks for the various groups that request them. These positions could be advertised in the next newsletter and via the BC Volunteering page.

Gillian would also like some labels as the contact details in the Tayside Butterfly leaflet are incorrect. Glyn to sort out label supply with Gillian/Elsbeth. There are plenty of label printers about.

## **8 AOB**

The need for a plan for the Threatened Species was raised by Mark. The discussion is reported in Item 2 of the minutes.

Helen has about £50 in cash donations from Burn O'Vat Visitor Centre which she will get paid in the Branch account.

It is hoped to hold workshops for the other 2 Strategy subjects. Apithanny will advise dates when available.

### **Date of next meeting.**

Sometime in September-committee will be contacted.

### **Distribution.**

Committee, David Hill, Anthony McClusky, CMRs and CBRs.