

QTNWG: Meeting of trustees 23/01/2023

via Zoom

Attending: Kim Creswell (chair); Rowan Duffy; Laura Palmer; Emma Etherington (treasurer)

Minutes

- **CENTRALISED LOG OF REPORTS POLLUTION/WILDLIFE CONCERNS AND ACTIONS/ OUTCOMES TAKEN:** On-going plan to collate evidence, as described in minutes 12/12/2022
ACTION: KIM TO PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION; ROWAN TO CREATE DIGITAL AND HARD FILES.
- **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR INTERESTED PARTIES/POTENTIAL MEMBERS:** Laura has e-mailed a draft to trustees. **ACTION: KIM AND LAURA TO EXPAND AND PROVIDE DETAILS TO ROWAN FOR WEBSITE**
- **FREQUENCY AND DATES FOR MEETINGS:** **ACTION: KIM TO PENCIL IN DATES AND SUBMIT TO GROUP FOR APPROVAL**
- **MEETING WITH YEOVIL RIVRS TRUST (YRT):** All trustees are interested in attending, however the easiest date to fix will be a Thursday 1pm at 9 Springs Cafe (as with YRT previously)
ACTION: KIM TO INVITE YRT TO MEET 16th/ 23rd FEB.
- **CHARITY STATUS:** The group has agreed that the Charity Status is a palaver which will inevitably take ages and in the meantime there is important work to be done which should not be hampered by lack of charity status. It was agreed that the work, rather than the application process should be priority and the most important thing is to set up a cosignatory bank account so we can accept funding. The charity status application will continue but not as priority **ACTION: TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AT MEET WITH YRT**
- **BANKING:** Emma has researched banking options and the favoured account at the moment is 'Unity Trust Business Account'. This needs a minimum initial deposit of £500 and monthly fee of £6. It was agreed by the group that member subscriptions would pay for the banking fees.
ACTION: EMMA TO PERSUE APPLICATION AS FAR AS POSSIBLE UP TO THE POINT OF SUBMISSION, IN ORDER TO GAIN GROUP APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING. EMMA TO LOOK AT 'JUST GIVING' PAGE TO ASSESS REQUIREMENTS.
- **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION:** It was agreed that the membership subscription should not be prohibitive to those on low income and set at £10p.a. with donation options for members. Those who can not afford £10p.a. should not be excluded - a form should be available on the website for those who wish to apply for free membership bank details. **ACTION: DETAILS FOR WEBSITE REQUIRED**
- **WATER TESTING EQUIPMENT:** It was suggested that if we raise an invoice before we have banking facilities we could ask others to pay on our behalf - it is possible that YRT may accept funding and make a payment on our behalf - Lorne Thompson of YRT is already discussing this with his group.**ACTION: KIM TO SET UP AN ACCOUNT WITH XYLEM AND RAISE INVOICE FOR TESTS. DISCUSS FUNDING STREAMS AT MEET WITH YRT.**
- **ON-LINE PRESENCE:** Rowan has begun building a website using Hugo Fox, which looks excellent. The group agrees a live website and social media platforms are essential for the functioning of the group, particularly in community engagement, newsfeed, and funding.
ACTION: ROWAN TO CONTACT EM WILCOX RE. A LINKED E-MAIL ADDRESS; ROWAN TO E-MAIL TRUSTEES WITH REQUEST FOR WEBSITE CONTENT, WITH A VIEW TO HAVING THE WEBSITE LIVE BY MID-FEBRUARY

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **VENUES:** QTNWG is currently using zoom for trustee meetings, supplied at no cost to the group by Kim Creswell; public meetings are to continue in the Sandford Orcas village hall (SOVH) , who are not charging us at present ; extra-ordinary meetings have been held at off-grid small holding and nature reserve 'By the Ford', with no charge to the group. **The trustees unanimously agree to continue with these arrangements is of benefit to the group at this time.**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The trustees are keen for the QTNWG to re-engage with the public after a period of dis-engagement over the xmas time. We had told the public that the first meet would be in February. It was decided that the following should occur: website to be live, with membership details and founding principles and channel for people to become members, pay subscription and donation options provided. Meeting planned for SOVH Thursday 23rd February evening, to officially launch website and attract membership. Newsletter to be sent to all interested parties in advance of meeting with content to be agreed at next Trustees meeting. Personalised approach to be considered for those who have shown particular interest. **ACTION: TO REVISIT NEXT MEETING; KIM TO CONTACT SOVH TO BOOK DATE OF PUBLIC MEETING**
- **GROUP NETWORKING:** The importance of joining up with other environmental groups was discussed - we have already made connections in the process of setting up the group which will be easier to maintain and enlarge when the website is set up. Kim was recently interviewed by Phillip Henneman, and article (https://www.dorsetcan.org/uploads/1/3/9/6/13969833/d-can_case_study_9_qtnwg.pdf) published through Dorset Climate Action Network Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/b70b2a130d50/jan23> . This led to an invitation for the group to attend a rivers event, by Sandra Reeve of River Voices, 7pm Monday 30th January 2023, which Kim will be speaking at to represent the group. All are welcome and can register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkd-GqrDoiGdS1Uvi9kEBI2pvWR0GfBo8a> It was agreed that the group should make an effort to send at least one representative to other groups' events in order to support and network. **ACTION: ALL MEMBERS INVITED TO SHARE NEWS OF FORTH COMING EVENTS WITH GROUP**
- **RSPB ACTION FOR NATURE WEBINAR:** on 15/1/23 Kim attended an RSPB webinar event (Emma Marsh et al) which described positive ways to engage with MPs to lobby them on behalf of nature. It was pointed out that every local authority now has a '**Nature Recovery Strategy**' (advice will be issued by DEFRA);the government have committed to **30% of land be committed to nature**; the importance of holding feet to the fire on these commitments looking at the areas they have not achieved; resources include '**State of Nature Report**', **Nature Friendly Farming Network**; **RSPB 'Action for Nature Tool Kit'**; positive ways to engage with MP - arrange face to face meeting, groups more powerful than individuals, find an angle which is of interest and relevant to your MP (there are records of what they vote on in parliament, find out what they speak for); **create an event - invite press and MP** if a stroll offer opportunities to see what is wrong; contact developers and offer to work with them for the good of nature; always offer positive options - show the future positive; RSPB are keen to network, and to link up on social media, and request groups use **#actionfornature** and keep them up to date with news and information: campaigns@rspb.org.uk
- **NEXT MEETING OF TRUSTEES VIA ZOOM MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2023 7.30-9PM**