

Cotswold Fungus Group AGM 2015



Meeting Minutes

Date: 16th May 2015 at 14:00pm

Location: The Barn at Great Wood, Stanton Park

Those present were as follows: Dave Champion (DC - Chairman), Peter Cejer (PC), Pat O'Dell (POD), Jennifer O'Dell (JOD), Rosemary Davies (RD), Jason Doe (JD), Cherie Gordon (CG), Helen Harris (HH), Lee Hayward (LH - Secretary), Ellen Winter (EW).

Introduction & Welcome by Dave Champion followed by items numbered as per the agenda. Each item was covered by the name in brackets:

1) Apologies (LH):

Apologies were received from John Roberts, Sheila & George Spence, Jean Oliver, Keith & Val Davies, Jane Kirby

2) Review of previous (2014) Minutes (DC):

3) CFG Accounts FY14/15 (LH):

CFG treasurer John Roberts (JR) was unable to make the AGM. In his absence, and after discussion with JR, LH presented the following summary:

The accounts are very healthy.

Balance as of 11/05/2015: £1,397.22

Equivalent balance in 2014 was: £1,166.36

There is one outstanding payment into the account. Dean FG to pay CFG £30 for sublet of our webspace, for their new website.

Lee H may claim for a printer cartridge as he's had to do quite a bit of printing over the year.

Upcoming outlay: The committee has decided to invest in a projector (and possibly screen) for use during educational presentations, as we intent to step up the amount of talks etc we do (Previous projector belonged to Dave Shorten).

The revenue increase is attributed mainly to the drive for CFG to become 'paperless', hence a significant saving in stationary and stamps.

4) Chairman's Report (DC)

In essence, DC reported that, after the big changes of recent years within the group, C.F.G has re-built itself and is as strong as ever. Recent comments from both new and long-term group members have been very positive and members are happy with the direction in which the group is moving.

5) Membership Report: (LH)

The following overview of recent membership figures was given:

The membership was higher before 2012. Membership peaked at 172 in 2010 but has been declining since then (There is some confusion as to whether this figure includes ~30 non paying associate members).

2012: 122 paying members at years end

2013: 44 members as of the end of May (101 paying members at years end)

2014: 37 members as of the end of May (77 paying members at years end)

2015: 59 members as of the end of May (with a few stalwart members yet to rejoin).

So for the first time in five years our membership is substantially up for this time of the year.

Hopefully this trend will carry into the autumn.

LH posed the following questions:

Q: Do we make more of a push on the education side, or publicity, to gain new members?

It was decided that nothing need be changed in this respect as new membership will reach a natural balance.

Q: Do we change anything to try to retain more of the members we have? Any ideas?

EW suggested that Glos Wildlife Trust (GWT) have a tried and tested approach to retaining GWT members.

ACTION: LH to liaise with EW, contact GWT for advice.

6) Secretary's Report: (LH)

The following overview of backroom issues was given:

Aiming for paperless administration because a) environment, b) makes things easier to run and c) saves CFG a substantial amount of money on stationary, printing and stamps.

To this end:

a) the website has been modified to allow easy access to foray information, downloadable membership forms, joining details and methods of contacting the group (plus other stuff).

b) there is a real push to invigorate the CFG facebook page, which is currently going really well.

c) LH has automated the majority of the administration tasks and streamlined the electronic spreadsheets and databases etc. As succession planning, this should make it much easier, and less time consuming, for anyone taking over the role of secretary.

We have started an online library for group members and any other local naturalists wanting to borrow the books. LH would like to thank everybody for their generous donation of books.

We may receive a further donation of several books from Roy Mantle (Leading figure in Shropshire FG).

Pretty much all of the enquiries we've had concerning ID's and requests for information etc have been passed on and dealt with successfully by DC and/or JR.

Finally, the change of group logo. The earthstar was lovely but not recognisable enough by beginners (whom the logo/look is really aimed at) so we now have a new logo, easily recognisable by novices as a fungus. Our overseas logo will likely remain unchanged in the future.

7) Election of CFG Committee (LH)

Position	Candidate	Proposed by	Seconded by	Result of vote
Chairman	Dave Champion	LH	CG	Carried Unanimously
Treasurer	John Roberts	DC	POD	Carried Unanimously
Secretary	Lee Hayward	DC	RD	Carried Unanimously
Recorder	John Roberts	DC	POD	Carried Unanimously
Membership Secretary	Lee Hayward	DC	RD	Carried Unanimously
Foray Organiser	Lee Hayward	DC	POD	Carried Unanimously
Facebook Administrators	DC & Mary Hunt	LH	RD	Carried Unanimously
Website & Data Controller	Lee Hayward	DC	POD	Carried Unanimously

The committee therefore remains unchanged from last year.

8) Changes to the Constitution (LH)

DC stated that the CFG constitution has not been modified since 2010.

Copies of the current constitution were distributed to all present.

LH proposed that the following two changes be made to the constitution:

- a) Removal of Newsletter editor from the committee.
- b) Addition of Facebook Administrator(s) to the committee.

LH stated that if anyone wishes to edit a newsletter in future they would be very welcome to, but that a newsletter editor on the committee may lead members to expect a newsletter, a requirement that is unlikely to be met at present. Secondly, the CFG facebook page is now the preferred method for distribution of information.

The proposal was seconded by DC and carried unanimously.

ACTION: LH to modify and reissue the CFG constitution.

9) CFG Schedule for 2015 (LH)

DC gave an overview of this years plans:

Foray program for the whole of 2015 has been finalised, and published on the website. The January 2016 Westonbirt foray/picnic has been finalised.

There are two public forays, Westonbirt on National Fungus weekend and at Batsford during the October half term.

LH has created and sent the publicity posters that Westonbirt required.

Our first ad-hoc foray will be the Cheltenham Bioblitz, date TBC. Members will be informed and invited.

We intend to run an ad-hoc foray during the summer at Grey's Farm, near Bourton-on-the-Water, and incorporate a picnic.

We have identified the need to reincorporate more educational presentations (we did some last year), and to this end:

- a) DC running a presentation in the autumn for Ettington GC
- b) JR presenting on meadowland fungi in June at Stroud Festival of Nature.
- c) LH running a presentation in the autumn for Wroughton Naturalist Group, and a presentation/foray at Cirencester Royal Agricultural University.

10) Any Other Business? (LH)

LH asked if the amount of global email he was sending was excessive? Everyone said no. PC suggested that each email should continue to clearly state at the beginning that it is from Cotswold Fungus Group.

PC stated that, as a fairly new member to the group, it is easy to navigate and find information on the website.

DC thanked everyone present and closed the meeting.