

Ratified Minutes

COUNCIL FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND THE COUNTRYSIDE RECORD OF ISSUES COVERED BY CORRESPONDENCE (189th MEETING)

Friday 26th Mar 2021

Papers were issued to CNCC members on 23th Mar 2021 and the business was conducted by correspondence and virtual meeting. The minutes reflect this way of working.

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| <p><u>Members</u> Dr. A.H. Kirkpatrick (Chair) Mr Oisin Murnion</p> | <p><u>Officials</u> Ms. Hilary Downey - Secretariat Ms. Oonagh Murray – Secretariat Mr. Mark Wright – DAERA Ms. Pauline Campbell - DAERA Mr. Richard Weyl - DAERA</p> |
| <p>1. Apologies Dr. S McGuckin, Mr. K Bradley. Ms E. Smyth</p> | |
| <p>2. Declarations of interest</p> <p>2.1 Members were asked for declarations of interest before 12.00 on 25th Mar 2021. There were no declarations of interest.</p> | |
| <p>3. Minutes of last meeting</p> <p>3.1 Dr. Cooper, Professor Orford, Professor Christie and Ms. Downey indicated by correspondence that the minutes of the last meeting were a correct record and the other members indicated this at the virtual meeting.</p> | |
| <p>4. Welcome, Chair’s report and JNCC update</p> | |

4.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that a report on the last JNCC meeting had been circulated to Council.

4.2 The Chair drew the Council's attention to the currently advertised competition for CNCC Members and a Deputy Chair.

5. Matters Arising - Chair

5.1 The Chair advised that matters arising from previous meetings were issued with the papers and are being progressed.

6. Meeting Reports – Chair

6.1 The Chair advised that meeting reports were provided before the meeting. All members were happy with these.

Pauline Campbell and Richard Weyl joined the meeting at 10.40am

7. Priority Species Review – Pauline Campbell

7.1 Pauline Campbell and Richard Weyl attended the meeting and provided a comprehensive presentation on the first tranche of the NI Priority Species Review. They explained the rationale behind the approach taken.

7.2 Mr. Murnion commented on the pressures now faced by native bees compared to when he was a child and Ms. Campbell highlighted the work done via the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, noting that the latest plan was being launched today. The Chair advised her that CNCC had been very supportive of this initiative.

7.3 The discussion went on to cover the need to build capacity and local knowledge for certain taxonomic groups, particularly invertebrates. The Chair asked about the age profile of the experts consulted, whether younger enthusiasts were coming through and if there was a role for local universities. Ms. Campbell noted that NIEA have had a role in student placements and that there is evidence of

interested younger people who need support and mentoring to develop into the next generation of experts. The Chair noted that CNCC would be interested in hearing more about any proposed initiatives to build taxonomic capacity and encouraged DAERA to engage with Council during their development.

7.4 In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Campbell agreed to make the presentation available to Members.

Action 7.1 CNCC to provide their views / endorse the proposal by 30 June 2021

Action 7.4 Pauline Campbell to send secretariat a copy of the powerpoint presentation for circulation to Members.

8. Tully Castle LNR – Pauline Campbell

8.1 Pauline Campbell introduced the proposed Local Nature Reserve (LNR), referring Members to the relevant documentation.

8.2 CNCC agreed to endorse the designation of Tully Castle as a Local Nature Reserve by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

8.3 The Chair noted that the relationship between history and environment was particularly interesting at the site this should be explored further when the management plan was developed. Ms. Campbell noted that she was willing to check if there was relevant material held on this topic.

Action 8.3 Pauline Campbell to look into whether more material is available on the relationship between this history of the site and the environment and get back to secretariat.

8.4 Mr. Murnion noted that part of the site was managed by having a farmer take a late cut so that wildflowers could set seed and asked for more information about it. He also made the point that biodiversity can be dependent on the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices by farmers and some of these do

not always yield a financial return. Mr. Wright noted the point was relevant to future agricultural policy and could be more effectively addressed in that context.

Action 8.4 - Pauline Campbell to find out more about the meadow management.

8.5 The Chair thanked Pauline Campbell and Richard Weyl for the presentations and closed the meeting.

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 The next meeting of CNCC will be held on 28th May 2021