

Minutes of the SEDN meeting November 2015

Friday 6th November at the Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury (room F3), 13:00. Buffet lunch provided.

Present: Sue Townsend, Sue Swales, Frances McCullagh, Alex Lockton, Sarah Whild, Nicola Stone.

1. Sue Swales updated the committee on changes to Shropshire Council. The environment team is being transferred to a new company, ip&e, which is wholly owned by the council. The main difference to SEDN will be that ip&e can trade and earn money, which means we could look for marketing opportunities from our services. There might however be some delays and interruptions during the transfer process.
2. Grants. The following applications were approved, from a likely budget of £5000. But all payments will probably be delayed until about March. Sue Swales to investigate whether we need to get additional quotes for the web database work, but we have discussed it with several possible contractors and found this to be the best value available to us.

Recorder	Species	N. records	Cost	Per record
Iain Benady	Web database		£2000	
Pete Boardman	More Collembola	400	£400	£1
Ian Cheeseborough	Aculeates	500	£500	£1

3. All ongoing projects appear to be running smoothly.

Recorder	Species	N. records	Cost	Progress
Alex Lockton	Coordination	0	£4000	All running smoothly
Alex Lockton	Vascular plants	10,000	£2000	Done
Caroline Uff	Beetles	750	£1000	
Frances Riding	Coleoptera	500	£500	
John Morgan	Bats	300	£1550	
Lorcan Adrain	Mammals	600	£630	
Lorcan Adrain	Mammals	1500	£1500	885 records received so far.
Nicola Stone	Forum	0	£1000	Done
Nicola Stone	Herptiles	600	£500	
Nigel Jones	Hoverflies	800	£1500	
Nigel Jones	Flies	200	£600	
Nigel Jones	+ others	200	£600	
Paul Green	Habitats	1500	£2,500	Done
Pete Boardman	Collembola	400	£400	Done
Sarah Whild	Vascular plants	5000	£500	Money to Bot Soc
Sue McLamb	Odonata	800	£2000	
Sue Townsend/FSC	Web site		£500	Done (Alex)

4. Plans for 2016. We agreed that it would be good to host another recorders' forum next year, possibly in collaboration with FSC or MMU. This year's one cost £400 and was well received, being good publicity for SEDN.

Once the new web database is online we could start to consider more elaborate reporting tools, including potentially protected species reports for consultants. We would not offer a service using staff, as Shropshire Wildlife Trust currently does, but an automated service would be more efficient. We need to discuss the prospect of this with SWT. Other commercial services could be considered, including potentially offering some of our expertise and products to other counties or national organisations.

Tsars are to be warned that payments might be a bit delayed this year – possibly until March, but we shall try to make them earlier if possible. This has happened before and is unlikely to cause many problems. Tsars are also to be asked to do more to explain the importance of their work, as lists of obscure species can be difficult to explain to funding partners if we do not have evidence of their importance and value to conservation. We shall continue encourage the use of the 1-page report format, and draw people's attention to the web site.

Mags Cousins has suggested that as some of the Ten Targets are being addressed, it was time to set some new targets. The group suggested that with 9 of the targets addressing site management and one on publishing the results, it was a bit inconsistent and that a tenth site could be added. Devil's Dingle was suggested as a possible tenth site, which would require an analysis of a brownfield site on entomological grounds – two things we have never really attempted before.