# Minutes from CRAG AGM 09.10.17

Held at Cornwall College, Newquay.

Members present: - Chris White (CW), Mark Nicholson (MN), Stephen Green (SG), Nicola Morris (NM), Sarah Stevens (SS), Roland Griffin (RG), Kurt Mason (KM), Ruth Corbett(RC), Tristan Holmes(TH), Jade Clayson (JC), James Lee (JL).

Apologies from: - Kate Hills, Cathy Turtle, Dave Williams, Helen Fearnley, Catriona Neil, Paul Diamond, Ruth Kent, Laura Fox

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| **Reports** | **Action** |
| **Chair’s report –** Despite relatively low numbers of members attending activities this year there had been several field trips and we have also attended a number of events with the CRAG stand. Chris was pleased to report that our recent trip to Carn Moor was well attended. And very successful.  A number of tins had been laid at Tregantle an MOD site in South East Cornwall. Surveys have been carried out by Stefan Jones, from Landmarc who manage the site, and so far slow-worms have been recorded. |  |
| **Secretary’s report –** SG reported an increased number of people signing up to CRAG with 54 active members and 22 of those signing up at Cornwall College Newquay’s Fresher’s Fair in September. He thanked Jade Clayson, Elle Adams and Tamar Davis for manning the stand and encouraging so many to become interested in our group. The new system for registrations was clarified with all membership payments and forms due on April 1st of each year. NM stated that, due to the new data protection laws and to ensure members are covered under ARG UK insurance, each member must complete and return a CRAG membership form and ARG Volunteer Working agreement every year. NM has sent details of the BHS/ARC Scientific meeting to all members and that SG was presenting at this year’s event to be held in Bournemouth on December 2nd. NM would continue to send out relevant correspondence from the ARG UK as appropriate to keep members up to date. |  |
| **Treasurer’s report –** MN provided a financial report for the period ending 5th April 2017. The CRAG cashbook shows a balance of £390.60 as of 9th October 2017. NM said that as the bank account has money it would be possible to purchase equipment for surveys if necessary. |  |
| **Election of Officers and Committee Members –** CW said that he had been very proud to hold the position of Chair for CRAG but that he wished to stand down if someone else was willing to take the post on. MN was happy to continue as Treasurer. Both SG and NM expressed a wish to step down from their roles as Membership Secretary and Secretary due to pressure from other commitments. NM wished to remain supportive though did not have time to commit to the full secretarial role. SG expressed a wish to focus on scientific matters and research.  A discussion was held to identify roles with the CRAG committee to support its continuation and growth. The reptile and amphibian champions will not be reprised though this could be revisited at a later date particularly if a species specific project warranted it.  With Stuart Edwards move to Reading it was decided to open up the post of Social Media Officer. George Surname was keen to take this on. Laura Fox is to be contacted to see if she wishes to continue with updating the CRAG website.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Position** | **Nomination** | Proposer | Seconder | | **Chair** | **Chris White** | RC | MN | | **Secretary** | **Jade Clayson** | NM | SS | | **Membership Secretary** | **Ruth Corbett** | NM | SS | | **Treasurer** | **Mark Nicholson** | CW | NM | | **Social Media Officer** | **George** | CW | SG | | **Website** | **Laura Fox (tbc)** |  |  | | CW to ask LF is she wishes to continue website.  NM & SG to forward secretarial documents to JC & RC.  NM to ask Angie Julian (ARG UK) if ARG email addresses are likely to be made available.  NM to ask SE & LF for social media and website access details. |
| **Sand lizard update –** Helen Fearnley, who has been running the sand lizard project in Cornwall, has been in touch with wonderful news regarding her health. Her treatment has been successful and she will soon be returning to work full time. She wanted to pass on her thanks to everyone at CRAG for their support and for the plant sent to her during her illness. Members wished her a continued recovery.  HF and NM had seen a grass snake at the site on a visit earlier in the year with CW and adders had been reported at the site though not yet been confirmed. A large area of the sand dunes had been mechanically cleared of scrub and a number of marram replanting sessions had taken place in order to help restore the dunes to conditions more favourable for reptiles. CW explained that he and David Atwell had laid tins at the site to survey for reptiles. These tins have been mapped by David. It was hoped to continue surveying the site to fully assess the lizard population in the area and continue monitoring.  Site management is needed to open areas for sand and sun. |  |
| **Site monitoring –** This winter SS/National Trust can map and put down tins at **Carnewas**. Plans to invite CRAG members, a visit in spring and a visit in autumn to check tins for reptiles. **Bedruthan Steps** is overgrown with gorse and needs habitat management for reptiles (smooth snake). Needs replacement of tins on site. **Breney Common** needs the matts replaced with tins. **Carn Moor** needs regular visits (had a recent CRAG visit) – SG wants to take on responsibility of monitoring with JL help. This site needs a consistent monitor protocol and new refugia. Perhaps we could spend money on new refugia/material for this site (and others)? **Tregantle** – Ministry of Defence, slow worms on this site. **Penhale** has consistent monitoring from the Wildlife Trust BUT new sites are very welcome. **NM’s Farm** could be a new site to records, tins on her land.  Potential new sites:  Lady who runs conservation at **Porth Resevoir,** contact her? **Holywell Bay** (joined to a SSSI), enhancing park for wildlife and more community involvement, abundant in common lizards. Overgrown Crocosmia, invasive vs scrubland area. **Park Dean** want to focus on more green tourism, lots of land, CRAG and SINNG could join forces here: invasive clearing, adders, slow worms, lots of south facing banks: perfect site.  Records:  **Carn Moor** trip is on record pool. SG is keeping personal record for own research. Stuarts GPS tins? (Contact Stuart?) Keep own detailed site information, NM and Stuart are verifying past records, record pool does not record negative data – we want this information. | KM committed to cut and oil matts (NM’s car). Email him and get this organised.  Start keeping own records of all the data collected for CRAG as well as uploading into a database? |
| **Site and events updates** |  |
| Carn Moor 30.09.17 |  |
| **Future trips**  Breney Common CRAG/SINNG collaboration trip before Christmas (November?) Joint CWT and Wildlife Trust spring time. Dates and sites to be determined. |  |
| **AOB**  KMquestioned whether there was a site monitoring matrix which would allow ease for any CRAG members to take data. SG said were aiming for a matrix, keen to push for monitoring, more standardising with a minimal number of visits per site annually. Conversely, we are limited with bodies and time. People could take on sites and run CRAG trips or visits in-between (also difficult as many of members are new or lack experience with herps). We want at least 4 sites in season. We need people to take on sites: they don’t need to be formal or well-advertised visits, recording and monitoring is priority – need a standardised data collection sheet. Need more value for data. KM keen on working experience hours.  No questions asked to RG, he spoke about banded tail snake.  Possible social CRAG evening – end of November, early December? To be determined.  **Next Meeting**  Monday, January 8th 2018. |  |