



Yorkshire Naturalists' Union
Natural Sciences Forum
Charity 224018

Minutes of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Natural Sciences Forum held in the Function Hall at St Chad's Parish Centre, Leeds from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday 2nd February.

Present: Andy Godfrey (Chair), Paula Lightfoot (Minutes), Becky Bailey, Mark Seaward, Paul Simmons, Joyce Simmons, Terry Crawford

Apologies: Peter Flint, Sharon Flint, Colin Howes, Jill Warwick, Terry Whitaker

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at St Chad's Parish Centre 3rd November 2018 are on the website and were agreed as a true record. The following matters arising were discussed:

1.1 YNU News Brief - TC agreed that the YNU News Brief had been valuable and it would be great if someone could take it forward.

1.2 AGM - TC and MS strongly approved of the proposal to stop charging for attendance at the AGM. It was agreed at the previous meeting that this would be achieved by reducing catering costs, i.e. allowing attendees to bring or buy their own lunch. It could also be achieved by choosing lower cost venues, e.g. village halls rather than hotels.

2. Vacancy – YNU Treasurer

Barry Warrington has advised the Executive that he wishes to step down from the role of Treasurer at the end of the financial year. An announcement was placed in the December issue of *The Naturalist*, on the [YNU website](#) (along with a job description and person specification), in the February issue of *Countryside Jobs Service* and has been promoted via the YNU's social media. BW is prepared to talk to anyone who might be interested, to give them insight into what the role involves.

If no one volunteers to take on this role, the YNU will have to pay an accountant to manage the day-to-day financial administration and to prepare the end-of-year accounts. The estimated cost is £600-£1000 per year but this is merely an estimate, no quotes have been obtained yet.

PS suggested contacting the Treasurer of Butterfly Conservation Yorkshire or other affiliated societies to ask if they would be willing to take on an extra Treasurer role, as they already have relevant experience.

3. YNU promotion at events (JW)

JW has raised the issue of how to get more people involved in representing the YNU at natural history events in the region, and asked whether it would be possible to get promotional materials made, e.g. a tablecloth with the YNU logo. Agreed that this would be fine, if JW gets quotes and sends them to the Executive for approval. This can be done via e-mail. Pull-up banners, a flag, leaflets and leaflet holders are already available. PL has previously circulated pricing and ordering information for YNU-branded clothing. John Wint also had YNU-branded clothing made, but this would have been with the old logo.

Regarding asking people to help represent the YNU at events, a request could be put into *The Naturalist*, the website and promoted via social media. The YNU has been represented by members at a number of regular events, including the RES Insect Festival, Leeds BirdFair, Spurn MigFest and BTO Yorkshire Conference, plus several bioblitzes.

MS asked if affiliated societies get involved in VC excursions. JS said that it depends on the site and the society. Some societies, such as Doncaster Naturalists, Barnsley Naturalists and Sorby Natural History Society are very helpful indeed.

4. YNU Conference 2019 progress update

PL announced that booking is now open for the YNU & NEYEDC conference at York University on the 6th April, and that bookings have started to come in. These include several reservations of space for posters, displays and book stalls. MS will have a table to sell books to raise money for Caring for God's Acre.

Speakers who have already committed are listed on the website and the programme will be added in due course. The conference theme is new tools and technology for recording and conservation. Talks will cover practical applications, focussing on relevance to field naturalist and conservationists.

PS mentioned that Jim Horsfall of YWT has written an article about DNA metabarcoding for entomological recording at Potteric Carr. **ACTION PL** to contact JH regarding the possibility of a talk on this topic at the conference.

5. Any other business

5.1 *Three Haggas Wood Discovery Day 6th July 2019*

Three Haggas Wood Trust are holding a Discovery Day on the 6th July from 2pm to 5pm and would love to hear from anyone willing to help out with species identification and public engagement. Please could anyone interested contact Emma Daniels, Project Coordinator, on

emma@haggewoodstrust.org.uk. TC has already agreed to take groups of children around the site to explain plant/pollinator interactions.

<https://www.haggewoodstrust.org.uk/DB/whats-on-6/discovery-day-2>

5.2 *Opportunity for comment on Terry Whitaker's 2017 paper: [YNU organisation and accountability for the next decade?](#)*

TC felt that this could do with some more focussed suggestions and someone to take forward any changes. PS felt that it is unusual for Executive members all to be Trustees. MS said that it is fairly common amongst charities at the moment but it is changing (although this is a big task) because Executive members may not wish to take on the liability of being a Trustee.

5.3 *YNU Publications*

MS asked whether it would be possible for members to opt out of receiving certain YNU publications. Agreed that this would in theory be possible but it would require someone to volunteer to administer the change and ongoing management of this system. Smaller print runs might not deliver cost savings, as the printers would be likely to increase the cost per item, although postage costs would be reduced. BC Yorkshire members have the option not to receive the paper report and instead receive an e-mail with link to access it online. If anyone wishes to investigate a similar option for the YNU's publications, they could contact Penny Relf. Another option would be for people who don't want certain publications could return them at the AGM/Conference so they could be re-sold, but again it would require a volunteer to administer the collection and storage.

BB announced that Geoff Dobbs has agreed to produce the 2016 Yorkshire Bird Report in 2016 and that JW will produce the 2017 report. The price of the Yorkshire Bird Report is likely to increase from £12 to £15 in future, in keeping with the size and quality of the publication.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Natural Sciences Forum will be held at 11.00am on Saturday 9th November at Whitby Museum.