

Association of Local Environmental Records Centres

Meeting of ALERC Members

14:00 – 14.30hrs, Wednesday 15th October 2014 , BVSC, The Centre for Voluntary Action, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DR

Minutes of the 23rd meeting of ALERC

(Fifth Annual Meeting)

(Directors present: all those listed opposite except Mandy Rudd + 77 members)

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 14:00

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mandy Rudd

2. Chairman's Report (Nicky Court)

Nicky Court expressed her thanks to all the ALERC Directors who were now taking on more tasks than previously, Eric and Mark managing Tom, Mandy for various high key meetings in London and her work with consultants, Teresa for her work as NBN Trustee. Directors now have Portfolios, lists of areas of work for which they are responsible, and these are to be found on the ALERC website.

Nicky commented that it had been a hard year with several threats to funding, with all sorts of cross-party groups looking at LRC "capacity". Using her own LRC (HBIC) as reference, Nicky commented on a few specific happenings there which have affected her LRC's services and which must have struck a cord with many other LRC representatives present at the conference. She expressed a wish to see LRCs moving forward as a united force and she hopes that in doing so we would be able to raise the awareness of the valuable work that we do amongst our collaborators and partners as well as the general public and politicians. Other ALERC achievements briefly mentioned were the ARC contract (Tom) which ends in March - and the need to put a bit of thought into how it may be continued, a comment that the MoA with Natural England/Defra was probably the best that we could have achieved - perhaps we can now work a bit faster next year to get a resolution, work with the BCT (Bat Conservation Trust) planning tool (more details due in the near future), the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) meetings and NBN workshops which were attended and allowed ALERC viewpoints to be expressed. Similarly ALERC had spent a good deal of effort on the NBN vision paper and on a recent GBIF consultation. Work at Defra monitoring workshops will lead to a Position Statement outlining how we may work with the various Defra bodies .

at this point there was some general discussion in the meeting about (poor sound volume from the audience, like "Slartibartfast", something about protected species licences) several members of the audience reported low numbers of these [Slartibartfasts] coming in from [unspecified sources] containing unexpectedly low levels of Great Crested Newts, indeed Eric, from the acknowledged home of GCNs, said that he'd only received 6 [Slartibartfasts] and they had been outrageously badly completed. It was resolved that Mandy Rudd would discuss the issue of [Slartibartfasts] with [another mumbled name]

3. Treasurer's Report (Eric Fletcher)

The treasurer displayed a summary of the finances he briefly outlined the report, our main income being from membership subscriptions and conference payments, after all the outgoings we had a surplus of £4641. He added that there were currently 44 LRCs signed up to ALERC and asked those present that if they knew of any nearby LRC areas who weren't members if they would be kind enough to make opportunities to inform them of the benefits of ALERC membership.

[Financial report to be attached]

4. Funding of ALERC National Coordinator post

An outline was given of how the post had been funded so far, set up initially by Defra + NBN which resulted in ALERC having a 15% share of the post. From March 2014 funding was from NBN + ALERC and this period of funding ended in September 2014. It is currently 100% funded by ALERC (it should be noted that some of this money is from previous underfunding). The ANC, Tom, now needs to work on specific projects for ALERC, projects which attract funding. Tom asked for ideas from the membership that would perhaps fit in with his current modelling work - although anything serious would be considered that suited his particular

skill set.

5. ALERC National Coordinator report

[Prior to Tom's chat he promised both the full report + a summary of what he said]

Finally Tom indicated how important it was that the membership came up with ideas for work in 2015

6. Appointments

The Chair indicated that actual elections of Directors took place at Director's meetings but that proposals made here in AGM would be taken forward to such meetings. In particular she noted that there was no representative Director from the East Midlands region

7. Any Other Business

The Chair asked for any other business (none having been received beforehand) Charlie Barnes raised the issue of how Defra see our role, remarking that he had a couple of copies of a letter pertaining to this subject on his person. The Company Secretary ran to the back of the hall to secure one of these - and asked for an [electronic copy]