

ANNUAL REPORT – LINCOLN CONSERVATION GROUP



July 2020 to June 2021

Chair's report (Julian)

That was a strange year! In and out of lockdowns and in and out of running tasks! We decided to suspend our tasks again in January during the 2nd (or possibly the 3rd?) lockdown. Despite the 'exemptions' indicated in government guidance for voluntary work, we agreed that wildlife conservation was probably not 'essential' enough to continue meeting up, going against the spirit of 'keeping safe'. We restarted as soon as possible in late April with a task at a private site, Patty's farm at Snitterby, which went well.

Despite the uncertainty of whether tasks could run or not, Jonathan put together an interesting and varied selection of tasks with a good mix of regular and new sites. There were a few tasks that were cancelled by user bodies, but Jonathan managed to replace them with alternatives at short notice. As Jonathan mentions in his report, we are always interested in new sites to work at, so do let us know of any new conservation opportunities you may come across in Lincolnshire.

Interest in our activities, going by the number of emailed enquiries, was high during lockdown, possibly driven by a renewed interest in nature as a result of more spare time to appreciate it, or just more spare time and a desire to get out the house. Whatever the reasons, it's great to see more new volunteers joining the group. Thanks also to Danielle and Lorna who went the extra step and got more involved by leading or co-leading workdays in recent months.

Financially, the conservation group remains in good health, thanks mainly to the generous Co-op grant received last year which should keep us in new tools and insurance premiums for several years.

At the time of writing, we have a programme of workdays up to the end of August with more waiting to be advertised: keep an eye on our website for updates. All we need now is for residential weekend tasks to become feasible again and we might be back to a semblance of normality.

Lincoln Conservation Group Committee, July 2020 – June 2021

Chair	Julian Bartrup
Task programme organiser	Jonathan Hill
Treasurer	John Turner
Secretary	Nicola Farr
Publicity	Nicola Farr (website), Jude White (programme leaflet), Julie Barnard (Facebook task advertising)
Tools Officer	Nick Dunnett

Task organiser's report (Jonathan)

The Group is now in its 27th year. I pay tribute to the founders of the group, many of whom of course are still among us. I also pay tribute to the more recent and very newest members. It is so nice to see new people join and then to see them keep coming along and become regulars. For any group to survive it needs new blood, ideas and enthusiasm and we are seemingly being blessed with this. We are also a good group for people with other commitments who join us just occasionally. All input whatever the degree is always welcomed.

We get involved with other organisations involved in countryside matters and it is nice to feel we can help these other groups and their initiatives. BBC's 'Countryfile' have their 'Plant Britain' campaign and we will be doing some more tree planting at Barlings Wood next January. Other groups and organisations we have had involvement with this year include projects such as Green Synergy's Hillside Community Gardens, Nettleham Woodland Trust, the Sincil Bank Community Interest Company and others.

There are new ideas to pursue such as mini urban forests, creating more ponds, creating new wildflower meadows and wildlife corridors and these are things we can look to get involved in. I will endeavour to get as many of these things into our programme as I can. Please keep coming up with your suggestions as and when you see something you think the group could do.


In this past year due to the Covid pandemic we had to cancel 8 out of our usual 25 annual tasks. Fortunately though, we have been amongst the 'exempt' groups allowed to work when generally people gathering in groups has not been allowed. This at least allowed us to operate during some parts of the year which I'm sure has been a boost for many of us.

Let's all keep going with this wonderful enterprise of ours.

Finance Report (John)

The Lincolnshire Cooperative Community Champions grant that we were awarded last year is lasting very well and was bolstered by a couple of tasks at Thurlby Wood that Colin kindly pays us for.

Outgoings were for our insurance and allotment fees for our tool store, plus a few new tools and PPE including additional items of PPE for the protection of task leaders and first aiders from covid.

		LINCOLN CONSERVATION GROUP		
Accounts 2020/2021				
		Debit	Credit	Balance
	Balance brought forward			£1,250.26
01/07/2020	Co-op Grant		£2,927.07	£4,177.33
15/08/2020	Tools (Jude)	£217.00		£3,960.33
15/08/2020	Covid 19 PPE (Jonathan)	£61.83		£3,898.50
10/10/2020	Gloves (Jude)	£9.59		£3,888.91
10/10/2020	Wrecking bar and tools (Julian)	£31.18		£3,857.73
31/12/2020	Interest		£1.99	£3,859.72
05/01/2021	Donation (Thurlby)		£120.00	£3,979.72
15/02/2021	Insurance	£164.92		£3,814.80
15/02/2021	Allotment	£59.40		£3,755.40
27/04/2021	Donation		£50.00	£3,805.40
11/05/2021	Scythe spares etc (Jeff)	£116.48		£3,688.92

LINCOLN CONSERVATION GROUP CONSTITUTION

1. The group shall be called Lincoln Conservation Group.
2. The aims of the group are:
 - To promote practical nature conservation through volunteers for the benefit of Lincolnshire's environment and the public.
 - To educate the volunteers in the principles and practice of conservation.
3. To fulfil these aims:
 - a) The group will undertake practical conservation work.
 - b) The group may undertake other activities, in furtherance of its aims or for the benefit of the group, from time to time as the members see fit.
 - c) Money shall be raised when required, for example through occasional paid tasks/workdays and other fundraising activities as agreed by the members.
4. The area served is principally the greater Lincoln area but projects and activities may be undertaken elsewhere as seen fit by the members.
5. The organisation shall affiliate to TCV and shall observe the conditions of association.
6. Membership shall be open to anyone interested in taking an active part in the work of the group, either directly by volunteering or by giving support in other ways, but those under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
7. The group shall hold regular meetings (at least bimonthly) to discuss its policy and administration. All members shall be invited to these meetings, and each member will have one vote.
8. The business of the group will be carried out by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will include: chairperson, secretary, treasurer, task organiser, publicity officer, tools officer. These officers shall be in charge of the day-to-day running of the group but shall be answerable to meetings of members.
9. Accounts shall be kept by the treasurer, reported at the regular meetings and approved for each financial year at the AGM.
10. The organisation shall maintain insurance for volunteers on its projects, and for injuries to third parties and damage to property.
11. If, by general consent of its members, the organisation ceases to exist, all assets shall be offered to other local conservation groups or, failing that, to a conservation-based charity, as agreed by the members at the time of dissolving the group.
12. This constitution shall only be altered by consent of a majority of the members of the organisation.