

ANNUAL REPORT – LINCOLN CONSERVATION GROUP



July 2021 to June 2022

Annual general meeting

We held our AGM at Fiskerton Fen on 26 June.

Our current committee members were all happy to continue and no other volunteers had expressed an interest in taking on or sharing a role, so the committee was voted in as below.

Lincoln Conservation Group Committee

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), Danielle Tinker (Instagram)
Tools Officer	Nick Dunnett

Chair's report (Julian)

The past year has been another successful year of interesting, worthwhile and well attended tasks. Jonathan continues to find us new sites to work on. There was Langford Lowfields, planting up reedbeds for the RSPB, which with a combination of a great team, interesting weather generating amazing light and wildfowl flying overhead, made it my most enjoyable task of the year. Our first visit to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's reserve at Woodhall Spa Airfield was enjoyable, not least for the tour round. We helped Saxilby Parish Council open up the woodland in their local park and we helped restart the restoration of the Dawber Gardens in Lincoln with a much needed clear up.

We also continued to work at our regular sites, with visits to Thurlby Wood, Scotgrove Wood and Ashing Lane and we returned to Kirkstead Old Mill for the first time since April 2019, where it was great to see Barbara again and help her with her wildlife garden. All our tasks ran successfully this year, albeit with a couple where the leader changed at the last minute due to covid infections and one that had to be rescheduled due to storm 'somethingorother'. We have yet to decide whether to start arranging a weekend residential task but hopefully it won't be long.

Our publicity was given another angle when Danielle kindly set us up an Instagram account so we can post photos and brief reports from the latest tasks and other activities/images of interest. Our Facebook account, carefully managed by Nicola and assisted by Julie, still details most of our task announcements and members often post photos of our tasks. Nicola continues doing a great job keeping the website up to date, which is still our most reliable route for publicity and information.

Financially we remain healthy with the Co-op Community Champions grant awarded in 2020 still keeping us well in the black, topped up with donations for the tasks we do for Colin at Thurlby. John advised us that the Nationwide Building Society was going to start charging fees to keep our account, so we now have our money in the Skipton Building Society, where 100% can be used for our activities. Thank you to John for sorting that transfer, which took quite a bit of paperwork!

Task organiser's report (Jonathan)

I believe the Group is as relevant and popular as ever, which is reflected in the really good numbers of volunteers we see on many of our Sundays.

We managed to find 5 new sites to visit during the year, 3 of which were suggested by people from within the group. One task we enjoyed was at Woodhall Spa Airfield (one of the 'new' sites) and we were given an informative tour by Kevin James, the warden, and had access to areas not available to the general public.

We don't 'campaign' on environmental issues but simply and quietly get on and involve ourselves in helping out locally in caring for our environment. This brings us into contact with other groups doing similar work and I think it is very rewarding to be part of this very large movement of collective effort.

If you see a site you think might be good for the group to work at then please let me know. If the landowners say they might tempt us with cake then text me straight away!!

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.