

RSB Yorkshire branch

Committee meeting minutes

Wednesday 20 February 2019

Krebs Café, University of Sheffield

1. Attendance

In attendance: Sohan Jheeta, Lynda Partridge, Emma Jones, Danae Dodge

2. Apologies

In absence: Val Randall, Fiona Real, Richard Reece-Jones

3. Minutes of previous meeting: Thursday 20 September 2018, Bradford

No minutes were available for the previous meeting. Steve Picksley, our secretary, has now stood down.

4. Matters Arising

As there were no minutes, there were no matters arising, although a new secretary is obviously urgently needed (this has been advertised on the RSB website).

5. Finance

RSB have been in contact to notify that the Branch budget proposal for 2018-19 has not been submitted - this would normally be done by the treasurer (currently Graham Bonwick). There have been problems contacting Graham but we anticipate that the budget would be similar to previous year as similar events are planned.

6. Debrief on recent events (Autumn Symposium and annual general meeting, 2018)

The symposium was very successful and generated a lot of interest. A summary of it was included in the recent *The Biologist*. Minutes of the AGM are available on the website, along with a list of new members who joined the committee.

7. Frontiers of Science Meeting, Leeds 16th March

There were initially some problems in using Eventbrite to record numbers, but this has now been fixed. Sohan recognises that this is becoming an annual event and has other ideas for it. A need has been recognised to push the advertising, and Danae is continuing to advertise the event on social media. Lynda will bring membership forms and Chris is now going to be bringing the RSB banner as Val can't make it.

8. RSB All Branches Meeting, 28th March

Lynda is going, but since Val is now unable to make this, Danae is taking her place, and will hopefully produce a poster of the Autumn Symposium event for it.

9. Annual joint RSC/RSB talk, 2019, hosted by the Chemistry Department, York University

This seminar "*Harnessing Chemistry to Re-wire Biology*" by Dr Alison Parkin, University of York, is being organised by Brian Grievson for the last time and will take place in the Department of Chemistry at the University of York. It has previously been suggested the RSC and RSB take turns

to organise this event, but ideally to keep it at York. Lynda will explore the possibility of holding a Committee Meeting at York before the seminar as in previous years.

10. Autumn Symposium 2019

At the Committee Meeting in Bradford in September, the topic of “Water Quality” was suggested, but we still need to find speakers and a venue. It had been suggested that it would be good to hold this in Hull if possible – Lynda will try to follow this up via the RSB. In terms of speakers and content, Danae has a contact with a member of the East Anglia RSB branch who is happy to speak and has provided some other speaker suggestions. Danae will follow up on this. The possibility of visiting The Deep in Hull as an optional extra was suggested.

11. Summer Outing

Various suggestions have been made, which have included Yorkshire Wildlife Park, the Bird Sanctuary, Potteric Car and Bolton Abbey.

12. Covance Tour

This was also discussed as a possibility.

13. Correspondence from RSB

As part of the 10th Year Anniversary of the RSB, a series of “Biology Changing The World” blue plaque unveilings and talks is planned, with regions invited to suggest local scientists, discoveries/developments or locations. Lynda suggested Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689- 1762) at Wentworth Castle, for introducing smallpox vaccination before Edward Jenner, and there appeared to be support for this from the Committee. This has been suggested to Shameema Haque of the RSB events and regions team, who is going to follow this up.

The Three Year Plan was also sent out to the branches.

14. The Biologist deadlines

Lynda contacted Danny Filer at RSB for information on this. (This has now been sent; Lynda to forward to the Committee)

15. Date of next committee meeting

Due to the joint RSC/RSB meeting, this is provisionally set for 1st May in York.

16. AOB

Danae asked if we should advertise our meetings on social media to which Lynda agreed to. We do need to advertise and get a new secretary. Danae will advertise this on social media. Danae mentioned that she had established contact with Anna Snelling at the University of Bradford who is behind their social media accounts and is interested in organising something for Biology Week this year. Danae also brought up that the British Science Association Leeds have been in touch and they would like one of their initiatives to be advertised, which is on Hedgerow Conservation, so they can gain more volunteers. Danae can provide more information on this, but she will follow up by advertising it.