Jersey Biodiversity Centre
7 Pier Road
St Helier
Jersey JE2 4XW

Email: jbc@societe.je
Tel: 01534 633393

JERSEY BIODIVERSITY CENTRE

Eighth Annual General Meeting

13.00-14.15 10th July 2024, Société Jersiaise Members Room, Pier Road, St Helier.

Attendees

Jersey Biodiversity Centre: Jonathan Rault JR (JBC Manager), Simon Swain SS (Data Officer)

Officers of the Charity (Committee): Anne Haden AH (Chair), David Tipping DT (Vice Chair), Andrew Koester AK (Treasurer), Dominic Hodnett DH (Secretary)

Elected Members of the Charity (Committee): Yvonne Rabet YR

Government Representative (Committee): Tim Wright TW

General Members of the Charity: Rebecca Bailhache, Nick Jouault, Ian Everson

1. Welcome

The Chair opened the AGM, welcoming all who had spared the time to attend and thanking them for their interest and support.

2. Apologies

General Members of the Charity: Alex Morel AM, Stuart Fell

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.
Proposer Anne Haden
Seconder Dave Tipping

4. Financial Report to 31st December 2023 (Andrew Koester)

- Income and Expenditure Account.
  - £30,000 income generated from agreement with the Government of Jersey, Dept of Infrastructure, Housing and Environment. This was double the previous year provision.
  - £15,840 income from commercial activities (data base searches for local environmental consultants).
  - £54,830 expenses for staff costs (this is the highest cost) .
  - £117 education support costs, down on previous year due to absence of an education officer.

- £1,837 insurance renewal cost. This has tripled for 2023 to comply with the increased public liability cover required by the new service level agreement with the Government.
- £ 742 Bank Interest due to the creation of a Savings Account.
- £24,413 Net expenses funded from the funds account.
- Additional funds were received from the Ecology Trust Fund.

- Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022.
  - £73,581 at NatWest International.
  - Plus £818 (debtors).
  - Less £2,101 (creditors).
  - With no Fixed Assets, the Total Year End Assets are the same figure of £72,298 which equals the Funds Account balance.

- Notes are included with Financial Statements which explain the various lines in the accounts.

- Comments and questions were invited: none arose.

The 2023 financial accounts were accepted.
Proposer Anne Haden
Seconder Dave Tipping

5. Chairperson's report 2023 (Anne Haden)

- Another successful year for JBC. It continues to strengthen and develop and is steadily building on the recording, educational, financial, procedural and administrative activities of the centre.
- Thanks to Jon Rault for all his hard work during the year, especially without anyone in the education officer role since September.
- Thanks to Simon Swaine for his vital role in searches and data input.
- Committee changes - thanks to Ruth Urben who retired from the role of secretary in January. We are delighted to welcome Dominic Hodnett as the new secretary.
- Goodbye and hello to Tim Wright who has resigned from committee in order to rejoin in his new capacity as a Government Representative.
- Thanks to Kevin McIlwee who has resigned after many years on committee and also to Deirdre Shirreffs for her role on the committee.
- Thanks to everyone for attending the AGM.
- JBC has achieved much during the year, as Jon will report. We must record what we have to have a chance to protect our flora and fauna.

Thank you all.

6. JBC Report 2023 (Jon Rault, Manager) (the following is a summary of the Managers report)

- **JBC Database: Data submission, Verification and Commercial Searches.**
  - 543,553 records of 11830 taxa in the JBC database (to 31 December 2023).
  - 127,136 records of protected species (521 taxa) in the JBC database (to 31 December 2023).
  - 26,171 records submitted to JBC database in 2023:
    - 14,170 records for 2023.
    - 10,574 records for 2022.
    - 1,427 records for 2021 or earlier.
  - Seasearch records for 2022 and 2023 not yet received. Delay due to the development of the new Marine Recorder database in the UK.
  - Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), birds, and flowering plants are the most recorded groups.

- Most recorded species of all time:
    - The top 3 most recorded species of all time are all butterflies, and the top 25 most recorded species of all time contains 13 butterfly species in total.
    - The database also has a large number of Hedgehog records 4th place in top 25 the list).
    - Another well represented group in the top 25 most recorded species of all time are the birds (10 of the top 25 most recorded species are birds).
- Most recorded species in 2023:
    - A similar picture for 2023, with lepidoptera again dominating the list with 13 of the top 25 most recorded species. In 2023 all of the top 8 most recorded species are butterflies.
    - The European hedgehog again makes the list in 9th place.
    - The 12 most recorded species last year was the wall lizard.
    - Birds again feature heavily, albeit slightly lower down the list.
- As more and more technologies for capturing biological records for specific purposes are developed, the sources of records submitted to the JBC database is becoming increasingly diverse.
- The JBC website remained the largest source of records in 2023 (43%), followed by the Jersey Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (28%), iRecord (website and associated apps) (15%), and iNaturalist (7%).
- Verification
    - Of the 543,553 records in the JBC database, 311,222 have been verified.
    - 232,331 records are pending verification.
    - Of the 127,136 records of protected species in the JBC database, 122,551 have been verified.
    - 4,585 protected species records are pending verification.
    - Good progress made extending the verification permissions of local verifiers to include records coming in from all sources (iRecord, iNaturalist etc.).
- A total of 137 commercial data search requests were fulfilled in 2023. This represents an increase of 46 compared to the previous year (2022).

- **CiRecord**
    - Channel Islands record centres are working together more closely, sharing knowledge, skills, infrastructure and costs as part of what has come to be known as the 'ciRecord partnership'.
    - Aligning branding and linked indicia-based websites.
    - Regular meetings have taken place throughout 2023 and 2024.
    - Development of a memorandum of understanding.

- **Citizen Science Monitoring Scheme Support**
    - The JBC continued to provide support (training, scheme promotion and data entry, handling and storage) to Jerseys various citizen science ecological monitoring schemes in 2023.

- **Events (In addition to monitoring scheme training events)**
    - JBC Education Officer partnered with Jersey Heritage and the Aspiring Jersey Island Geopark for a project called the Wild Escape. This consisted of a series of wildlife art events that also incorporated some identification training. The events were aimed at a variety of age groups and included sessions with schools and community groups. These events culminated in an exhibition at the link gallery during the month of August where the artwork that was produced during the events was put on display.
    - Other training and events that the JBC either organised or had a presence at last year included:
        - Marine Mission event in January.
        - Rocky shore survey in March.
        - Series of bee identification and recording sessions at Samares manor in April.
        - Marine mammal identification and recording training session held in May.
        - Beach clean at Ouaisne in July (organised by a volunteer).
        - Marine recording field trip to La Rocque in August (organised by a volunteer).
        - Marine themed sessions for Art House Jersey in August.

- **Student Placements**
    - A week of biological recording training and activities for a group of first year students studying animal management at highlands college in May.
    - A second-year student came in to volunteer every Monday, helping with various tasks whilst developing their knowledge and skills.

- **Staffing**
    - Many thanks to Sarah Maguire, who left the JBC at the end of August, for all her hard work and dedication to the JBC over the years.
    - The JBC then welcomed Stephen Le Quesne who took on the role for the remainder of the contract until the end 2023.

- **Communications and Media**
    - Facebook (2,100 followers). He JBC's main social media account.
    - Instagram (938 followers). Potential to reach a different (younger) audience.
    - JBC email list (107 subscribers).
    - Linkedin (88 followers). Account only recently recovered. Potential to reach a different audience.
    - Youtube (24 subscribers). Future use to publish digital training and instructional content.

- **Customer Surveys**
    - A condition of the 2023 service level agreement between the JBC and the Government of Jersey was the requirement for the JBC to undertake a customer satisfaction survey to assess the level of satisfaction among the users of its services.
    - In order to capture the required information from the JBC's diverse range of customers, a suite of three anonymous customer surveys were developed:
        - General survey applicable to the majority of Jersey Biodiversity Centre customers.
            - Overall customer satisfaction rating of 3.96 out of 5.
        - Survey designed to be completed only by Government of Jersey Employees.
            - Overall customer satisfaction rating of 4.5 out of 5.
        - Survey designed to be completed only by authorised representatives of ecological consultancies.
            - Overall customer satisfaction rating of 3 out of 5.
        - Across all surveys 90% of respondents rated staff helpfulness as very helpful.

- **2024 and Beyond**
    - JBC business plan development.
    - CiRecord partnership.
        - Adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding.
        - Shared branding.
        - Website and app development.
    - JBC Staff.
        - Currently recruiting an Outreach, Training and Communications officer.
        - The role is to be tightly focused on liaising with and supporting Jersey's biological recording community.
    - Training and Workshops.
        - The JBC will continue to deliver training as part of the support that we provide to Jersey monitoring schemes.
        - Development of some beginner level training and resources for biological recording in Jersey.
        - Training in the use of biological recording technology.
        - Bespoke biological recording training for local Rangers.

        - Verification training.
    - Database work.
        - Errors, duplicate records, missing data.
        - Dataset audits.
        - Improve categorisation of records according to dataset and source.
        - Record verification.
        - Increasing taxonomic coverage.
    - Data sharing/ access.
        - NBN
        - Local stakeholders (e.g. land managers)
    - Digital content.
    - Stakeholder Engagement and consultation.
    - Projects.
    - Secure further funding.

- **Questions?** None arose.

7. Election of Committee

Officers

Ruth Urben has retired as secretary and Dominic Hodnett was elected to fill this role

Secretary	Nominee	Dominic Hodnett		
	Proposer	Anne Haden	Seconder	Andrew Koester

Other elected members

The current elected member has completed their term and is willing to stand for re-election.

Member	Nominee	Yvonne Rabet		
	Proposer	Anne Haden	Seconder	Tim Wright
	Anne thanked Yvonne for her support.			

Tim Wright who resigned as an ordinary member, was thanked for his contribution and Anne was delighted that Tim is still on committee as the government representative.

Paul Chambers will replace Tim Wright.

Member	Nominee	Paul Chambers		
	Proposer	Anne Haden	Seconder	Tim Wright

Delighted to welcome Alex Morel onto committee.

Member	Nominee	Alex Morel		
	Proposer	Anne Haden	Seconder	Dave Tipping

Since Deirdre Shirreffs has retired, there is still space on committee for another member.

8. 2024-25 committee

Chair	Anne Haden
Vice-Chair	Dave Tipping
Treasurer	Andrew Koester
Secretary	Dominic Hodnett

Member	Yvonne Rabet
Member	Paul Chambers
Member	Alex Morel
Government representative	Tim Wright

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business

10. Close of Business

The AGM closed at 14:15. The Chair thanked Société Jersiaise for their support in discussions over JBC accommodation. Thanks also to all who attended the AGM.

Supporting documents

Financial Accounts to 31st December 2023.
Treasurer's Report.
Chair's Report.
Manager's Report.