

**BMS Council Meeting,**  
**2:00pm March 23rd City View House, Union Street, Manchester M12 4JD**

**Attendees:** Prof Naresh Magan, Dr Paul Dyer, Dr Pieter van West, Prof Geoff M.Gadd, Dr Geoff Robson, Prof Nick Read, Prof Bruce Ing, Dr Simon Avery, Dr Stuart J.Skeates, Ms Carol Hobart, Ms Dinah Griffin, Mr Norman Porrett (BMS Administrator)

ITEM		ACTION
1.0	<b>Apologies:</b> None received although Tony Whalley had supplied an International Officer's Report for presentation later in the meeting.	
2.0	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:</b> (5.0) further to the treasurers report at the previous meeting and subsequent BMS AGM, CH had asked that clarification of the accounts be made so both Council and members could more readily understand them. GMG re-iterated his point made at the time that the accounts were prepared, as always, in accordance with accepted accounting practise. There will always be difficulties in ascribing specific costs to the different areas of the BMS activities. A discussion ensued about how the accounts might possibly be made more accessible for members to understand how the BMS spends its resources. <b>Action: CH promised to look further into this area.</b> With minor amendments from members present, the previous minutes were accepted by those present.</p>	CH
3.0	<b>Matters Arising: (carried forward from the previous meeting)</b>	
	<b>Incorporation (GR)</b> A simpler method of the Incorporation process is currently under review in Parliament. It should give the same protection for trustees as the 'full incorporation' process. Once it has been brought into law, both types of Incorporation will be assessed as to which is best for the BMS and its trustees.	
	<b>Society of Biology (SoB):</b> Invitations to SoB meetings for member organisations will be dealt with by the BMS president, NM. PD receives emails from the SoB and will forward these onto NM.	
4.0	<b>Presidents Report:</b>	
(a)	<p><b>Code of Conduct (at BMS meetings):</b> A complaint had been received from an attendee at a BMS field event in 2011, and had been passed onto NM for an official BMS response. NM has drafted a letter to respond to the complainant. He has indicated that the BMS takes these types of incidents very seriously and as a Dignity at Work Officer in Cranfield University, he is well aware of the steps that need to be taken. CH who had been the first point of contact for the complainant, explained the underlying situation, the BMS initial response and the subject of the complaint without mentioning any of the names of those involved. NR proposed introducing a Code of Conduct for BMS meetings and that it be included in all information supplied relating to BMS events. All present agreed with this proposal. <b>Action: NM will draft this and circulate around Council for input and approval.</b></p>	NM
(b)	<b>Sfam:</b> NM has recently been in contact with the Society for Applied Microbiology ( <i>Sfam</i> ) to arrange a joint meeting on Food Mycology at the Royal	

	<p>Society in January 2013. There will be no financial outlay by the BMS and it will generate great public interest in the BMS. Students will be encouraged to attend with reduced registration fees. If Council approve this joint enterprise NM will proceed with further negotiations with <i>Sfam</i>. Council approved this.</p>	
(c)	<p><b>University of Copenhagen-Funding Application.</b> An application for funding of £800 has been requested by the University of Copenhagen to support the organisation of a symposium in the Third European Congress of Conservation Biology in Glasgow from August 28th to September 1st 2012. There will be various speakers and attendees from across the UK and will be an opportunity to share knowledge across the European conservation community. GMG pointed out that these events are normally supported by the BMS as part of its overall remit. <b>All present agreed to this funding request</b> and asked that the BMS conservation officer be kept informed of any developments and initiatives raised at the meeting. <b>The event will be included in the next BMS newsletter</b></p>	
(d)	<p><b>Geomicrobiology meeting in Manchester: (GMG)</b> A request for <b>£500</b> to help sponsor an international meeting on '<i>Geomicrobiology and its significance for biosphere processes</i>' has been received. The sponsorship from the BMS will allow the Society to ensure fungal related topics are included in the remit of the event, and give further exposure to the Society to the wider scientific community. The event runs from the 19th to the 20th of April at Manchester University and is organised by Jon Lloyd (Manchester) Geoff M.Gadd (Dundee) and Jo Santini (UCL). <b>Council agreed to support this application.</b></p>	
(e)	<p><b>Magnificent Microbes- Division of Molecular Microbiology University of Dundee 9-10 March 2012. (GMG)</b> A funding request to the BMS for <b>£500</b> to assist in sponsoring this event, with the inclusion of fungal-related exhibits. This event was sponsored by the BMS in 2010 and was very well received winning several national prizes for its significant success in public outreach. The BMS logo and materials will be on display and included in various output materials. The full details of the event had been circulated to Council prior to this meeting. <b>All present agreed to support this funding application.</b></p>	
(f)	<p><b>BMS website- logo: (PD)</b> After some objections to the Myco-Kids logo on the front page of the BMS website had been raised, a discussion by the FEO committee under whose remit Myco-Kids falls, had decided they wished the logo to remain on the front page. In the spirit of compromise they had agreed however to reduce its size and overall prominence. CH said she had attended the original Council meeting where the image design had been agreed upon, including its inclusion as part of the website front page. She pointed out that the complications of web page design would incur a cost to redesign this image. It was pointed out that the Charities Commission remit requires the BMS to reach out to a younger audience as part of its overall mission. GMG mentioned his personal experience in other Countries at mycological events, where the image had been less than well received. SJS &amp; CH asked if the redesign had been finally agreed or whether it was still up for discussion. SA and NR felt the image was currently too prominent within the front page of the BMS website. A debate ensued to look for a solution to the difference of opinion about the Myco-Kids image. NM proposed that the web designers be asked to reduce the size of the image and remove some of the attached text to make the image less prominent.</p>	

	<b>Action: SJS will consult with the web designers to see what can be achieved and circulate the results around Council for feedback and a possible final decision.</b>	<b>SJS</b>
<b>(g)</b>	<p><b>IMC10 (NR)</b> The IMC9 event held in Edinburgh in 2010, partly organised by the BMS was such a massive success, that the winning bidders to host the IMC10 event in 2014 have requested BMS input in organising it. The Thailand Mycological Society is currently experiencing some problems with preliminary organisation, and conference planning is behind schedule. With two and a half years before the event is due to take place there is still a lot of work to be done. To this end, members of the IMC10 technical committee, NR, GR and GMG have been invited over to Thailand to meet with key members of the organising committee and the chosen Professional Conference Organiser (PCO). The IMC events are very important to the mycological community. The success of the IMC9 event in 2010 and the involvement of the BMS in the 2014 meeting, mean that the reputation of the Society and this event are very much intertwined and therefore 2014 must be a success. It is therefore proposed to Council that the BMS fund a delegation of the three Council members NR, GR, and GMG to go over to Thailand and help speed up the organisation of the IMC10 event and help ensure its certain success. Their previous involvement in IMC9 and experience of these types of events will be of invaluable assistance to the Thai organisers. An estimated budget to cover return flights, internal travel and accommodation is <b>between £3-4K.</b></p> <p>DG asked if this money will be a one-off payment or will regular attendance from these BMS advisers be required over the next two years, thereby incurring further financial outlay from the Society? It was mentioned that the BMS would normally support members' attendance at these types of events through the various grants available through the Society. This request is a special circumstance.</p> <p>CH asked if the Thai's bid was not underwritten by the PCO then perhaps they should not be encouraged to pursue this event any further, and it be allocated elsewhere.</p> <p>A discussion ensued where it was agreed that IMC10 needs to be a success. PD was of the opinion that the BMS input is essential to make this happen. Bringing in other nationalities such as the USA or China might encourage a challenge to the Thai's bid to host the event, as these Countries were part of the original bidding process to hold the event. It was suggested that perhaps other mycological Societies might wish to be involved.</p> <p>NM proposed that Council look on this as a one-time only award of money, and should further funding requests be made to support the Thai event, then the congress would most likely not go ahead. He asked who was in favour of this proposed delegation being funded to go over to Thailand and assist in organising IMC10.</p> <p><b>10 in favour with 1 abstention. Agreed by a majority vote</b></p>	
<b>(h)</b>	<p><b>BMS Small Grants:</b> There have been 6 small grants received before the first cut-off date of the year, March 20th.</p> <p><b>NP and the office asked to circulate the approved grants amongst Council to look at areas of usage.</b></p> <p>Geoff Kibby (Field Mycology Editor and Publication committee member) has asked for financial support to purchase a new PC which will assist with his editorial and publication duties for the BMS. A sum of £700 has been requested.</p>	<b>NP</b>

	<p><b>All present agreed to this request.</b>  <b>A grant of £300</b> was requested to allow SA to visit Dr Luis Lopez-Llorca in Alicante to assist him with the organisational aspects of the upcoming BMS main scientific meeting for 2012. This would pay for flights and accommodation for the time SA will spend in Alicante. <b>All present agreed to this request.</b></p>	
(i)	<p><b>Elsevier publications contract (GR)</b> The BMS publishing contract with Elsevier is up for renewal in 2015 and negotiations need to start very soon. Further to discussions in the Publications Committee held prior to the Council meeting, it was proposed that the contract be put out to tender to get the best financial deal for the BMS. Previous negotiations with Elsevier were driven by Prof Nick Clipson and Mark Weyr, the former a consultant specialising in publishing dealings. It was proposed by the Publications committee to set up a Publishing committee to negotiate the new contract with any potential candidates. This committee would include BMS Council/Committee members <b>GMG, GR, NR, PvW</b> and the aforementioned Prof Nick Clipson and Mark Weyr. It was pointed out that revenue from journals publication will not be at the current levels whomever the BMS chooses to go with, as the world of publishing is increasingly moving into 'open access' publishing. The journals sold to BMS members are currently heavily subsidised and alternative methods of publishing hard copy need to be considered to reduce costs. All present were asked if they supported the creation of this special committee to negotiate the new publishing contract.  <b>All present agreed they were.</b></p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<p><b>Alicante Meeting 2012(SA)</b> The meeting organisation is well on track with a few minor difficulties to be sorted out. The '1st Call' Flyer has been distributed via email. The invited Speakers have been agreed as have the session topics. The registration forms will go out with the 2nd call document, also via email. <b>DG</b> and <b>CH</b> asked if advance notice of BMS main scientific meetings could be communicated sooner, so that joint field events might be created to run alongside. The 2013 meeting in Cardiff is in the planning stages and venues are being sought for the meetings after that in 2014 &amp; 2015.</p>	
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>International Advisor (TW-report given by GR ahead of Agenda schedule)</b></p> <p>The British Mycological Society has a long tradition of international collaboration with membership in more than 40 countries. Since the centennial meeting in Sheffield in 1996 and the very successful IMC9 in Edinburgh this has gathered pace and our interactions with overseas societies and mycologists has increased considerably. Since I am currently visiting professor at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand I am using the opportunity to consolidate our existing links in Thailand and to continue to develop cooperation with our mycological friends in China, Japan and Malaysia. It is worth noting that several Thai mycologists will attend the BMS overseas meeting in Spain in September 2012.</p> <p>Professor Geoff Gadd and Dr Geoff Robson have initiated discussions with members of the Philippine Mycological Society and Geoff Gadd has long standing links with Korea. Mycologists in the Philippines are very interested in developing their association with the Society and with IMC10 being held in Bangkok in two years' time will be strongly represented there.</p> <p>The Society has also been actively involved in IMC10 with Professors Gadd,</p>	

	<p>Nick Read and Dr Geoff Robson as part of the advisory committee. Their experience with IMC9 is proving to be very valuable and is highly appreciated. Professor Neil Gow has also been offering suggestions on the programme.</p> <p>I have been invited to join the Thai members of the committee at the International Microbiology Conference in Khon Kaen in October where I shall be a speaker. The Thai National Mushroom Center is based at Mahasarakham University and Dr KhwanRuan Papong , the Director and lecturer in mycology at the university is in regular communication with a number of BMS members to extend the scope of the centre to include applied aspects of mycology, especially industrial. To date this seems to be developing very nicely.</p> <p>Continuing links with China are in progress especially with the Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences where Professor Yi-jian Yao is Directory of the key laboratory for Systematic Mycology and Lichenology. Future collaboration with Dr Zuoyi Liu, President of Guizhou Academy of Sciences is also underway. At a future date a BMS meeting in China has been suggested. It is interesting to note that the Mycological Society of America is increasing its activities and influence in China and Thailand.</p>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>General Secretary Correspondence (GR-Brought forward ahead of Agenda schedule)</b>	
	<p>A request from Dr David Denning to support a schools initiative <b>Leading International Fungal Education (LIFE)-Fungus-Friend or Foe?</b> He is looking for financial support to help run an arts program, using creative arts and music to help young people in schools interpret how they see the role fungus play in human diseases. This project was looked at by the BMS FEO committee but failed to gain their support. The £ 5000 requested seemed excessive. <b>NR</b> indicated his support for the project but without a comprehensive breakdown of costs and expenditure, no funding allocation could be justified. If a more complete financial picture was provided would the BMS wish to be seen to be associated with this project, and provide some funding?</p> <p><b>BI</b> had a concern that the thrust of the project portrayed fungus in purely a negative way.</p> <p>NR proposed that a reply be communicated to David Denning that the BMS will help in any way it can excluding supplying funding, unless a more comprehensive case could be made to offer some small financial assistance.</p> <p><b>Action: PD will contact David Denning and clarify the BMS position.</b></p>	<b>PD</b>
<b>8.0</b>	<p><b>The Treasurer: (GMG)</b> The BMS finances are currently in good overall shape. Other financial aspects have been discussed earlier in the meeting, such as the impact of a new publishing contract and the costs of the Alicante main meeting for 2012.</p> <p>DG asked what happened to the proposals in the restructuring process where budgets would be devolved to the various committees, based on historical spending patterns.</p> <p>GMG replied that this was still not possible as costs were spread across the three committees indistinctly, so a specific allocation of some costs was not realistically possible.</p> <p>It was proposed after a general discussion of the budgeting of the three committees that small outlays decided on by the individual committees do not need the full approval of Council, as long as the BMS President, Treasurer and</p>	

	<p>President-Elect was informed and agreed, and this was reported back at the next Council meeting.</p> <p><b>This proposal was agreed by all present.</b></p> <p><i>Although no expenditure limit was set, no obvious excessive spending would be allowed without consulting Council.</i></p>	
<p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p><b>Fungal Biology Research committee: (NR)</b></p> <p><b>The 2012 Alicante Meeting:</b> It was proposed by the FBR committee to send over a BMS representative to assist the local organiser Dr Luis Lopez-Llorca with the mammoth organisational task of running a BMS main scientific meeting. This will require a small amount of financial expenditure from the BMS, approx. £350, for flights and accommodation. Council were asked to approve the decision of the FBR committee. <b>Council approved.</b></p> <p>It was proposed by the FBR committee that free registration, a 50% reduction in accommodation expense and half price conference dinner should encourage greater attendance from students in Alicante, and Council were asked for their support and approval of this decision. <b>Council approved.</b></p> <p><b>Cardiff 2013:</b> The provisional titles for this main meeting are either ‘Fungi or Environmental Change’ or Fungi in Changing Environments’. The organisers are Dr Mark Ramsdale and Prof Lynne Boddy. The subject area will allow for the inclusion of physiologists and ecologists within the topics remit. There will be four areas of consideration;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Fungal Integration</i></li> <li>2. <i>Plant Pathogens</i></li> <li>3. <i>Animal Pathogens</i></li> <li>4. <i>Phenology</i></li> </ol> <p><b>NR</b> emphasised that the BMS main meetings need to be kept more general to include most aspects of mycology, and not too restrictive in scope. There will be postgraduate events within the meeting, with a day focusing primarily on Postgraduates and Undergraduates. This could involve career lectures laying out a path of progression for mycology students, to help retain them within the sphere of mycological interest.</p>	
	<p><b>Society of Biology: Task Force on Fungal Science.</b> A proposal has been received by <b>NR</b> about the Society of Biology’s intention to convene a ‘Task Force on Fungal Science’, <i>to survey the health of the discipline and emerging issues, and to deliver a report to the Education, Training and Policy Committee.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim of this is to generate a comprehensive high-level analysis of the health of mycological research in the UK.</li> <li>• To highlight challenges facing mycologists in the next five years</li> <li>• To agree on a top ten list of priorities for UK mycology.</li> </ul> <p>The time line for this project will entail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call for expressions of interest in the Task Force to be invited</li> <li>• Task Force formation and task setting, with initial face-to-face meetings</li> </ul>	

	<p>followed by subsequent ‘virtual meetings’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim and final reports to be drafted</li> <li>• A final report to the Education, Training and Policy committee along with recommendations.</li> </ul> <p>NR has been invited to be part of this Task Force and emphasised that the component members of this group would be crucial to any outcomes achieved. NR has proposed other names to be approached, Neil Gow and Nick Talbot. The FBR committee have agreed that all aspects of mycology should be well represented and that the scheme must not have a predetermined agenda. When the Task Force has concluded its mission, an article summarising its findings will be published in the Society of Biology journal ‘<b>The Biologist</b>’</p> <p><b>Action: When NR has greater clarification of the overall remit he will communicate this information to the BMS president and Council.</b></p>	NR
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Fungal Education and Outreach committee (PD)</b>	
	<p><b>Materials and Events for the General Public:</b> The From Another Kingdom exhibition used at IMC9 in Edinburgh 2010 was transported to the Botanic Gardens in Wales and has been extremely well received and attended. DG mentioned she had visited the exhibition and that it was looking a little tired. SJS has since contacted Prof Lynne Boddy who will look over the exhibits and report back. NR emphasised that this resource material needs an injection of cash to revive and refresh it before it is moved to Cork in Ireland in February 2013. The book created for the original exhibition in Edinburgh has sold out its first print run, and is in its second print now.</p> <p><b>FEO Pull-up stands:</b> CH has begun work on these as well as a selection of leaflets for use at outreach events. Other current printed materials will be looked at and reprinted if suitable.</p> <p><b>Heritage Lottery Activities:</b> CH has written reports for the Heritage Lottery Fund in order to draw down further funding to support the creation of resources.</p> <p><b>Press &amp; Media affairs:</b> Lynne Boddy has taken over the role of media liaison where requests come into the BMS office for a BMS statement/response to items of mycological interest that come up on radio, TV, or in the press.</p>	
	<p><b>Materials and Events for Primary &amp; Secondary Schools:</b> The range of activities for schools on the BMS website has recently been increased due to the hard work and contributions of members of the FEO committee. More resources will be uploaded as they become available. Links to science sites to encourage more online traffic to the BMS website will be sought. The MiSAC competition sponsored by the BMS in 2011 received a lot of interest and entries. The winning entries have been placed on the BMS website under the FEO/ MiSAC section.</p>	
	<p><b>Materials and Events for Universities:</b> Future initiatives suggested by Kay Yeoman of the FEO committee suggested a repository of fungi-related practical experiments which could be used within the biosciences study area. Fungi could be used to illustrate concepts in four broad subject areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecology</li> <li>2. Genetics</li> <li>3. Biochemistry</li> <li>4. Physiology</li> </ol>	

	<p>These could be stand alone or strung together to form an overall theme. This idea is currently being investigated further by Kay Yeoman and will be fed back to the FEO committee at a later date.</p>	
	<p><b>Science and Mathematics Education in the UK:</b> The FEO committee have drafted a statement from the BMS to the Royal Society concerning the direction and content of teaching within schools over the next five years. The statement emphasises that a mixture of both academic learning and practical application will encourage a greater understanding of the different biological kingdoms, especially that of fungi and its role in the environment and economy of Countries. With Councils approval this will be sent on to the Royal Society. <b>Council Approved this.</b></p>	
	<p>A funding request was presented by PD for leaflets to be used at outreach events. The leaflet designed by Ali Ashby with assistance from others on the FEO committee is entitled ‘Fascinating Fungal Facts’ and will cost £345 for 5000. It currently needs a final tweaking and will be ready to print. <b>Council agreed the funding request</b></p>	
	<p>A BMS presence at a Natural History Museum event at the end of May requires an allocation of funds. A breakdown of costs was supplied which covered</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance of 4-5 BMS personnel from the FEO and FMCC committees. This would include transport costs (allowing for a NHM subsidy), overnight accommodation and subsistence. <b>£600</b></li> <li>Display Materials, to include preparation of backing vinyl displays, transport of microscope and TV/Projector. Also delivery and return of fungal models and arts materials from the Manchester BMS office <b>£900</b></li> <li>Activity Materials and material to take away. This includes costs for production of spore prints, hand-outs, balloons, paper mache, table covers etc.’ <b>£500</b></li> </ol> <p>This activity would be one of the main FEO outreach activities for 2012. The costs of this activity are similar to those of the 2010 Edinburgh ‘Fungal Weekend’ and are considered appropriate given the potential large audience outreach at a venue such as the Natural History Museum.</p>	
	<p>From a discussion at the FBR committee meeting, the FEO committee would also wish to see a list of potential careers with a mycological component included on the BMS website. This provisional list could include many diverse careers such as;</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic</li> <li>• Research Institute</li> <li>• Leather Manufacturing</li> <li>• Cheese/Bread making</li> <li>• Paper manufacturing</li> <li>• Food Additives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation &amp; Ecology</li> <li>• Herbarium Collector/Keeper</li> <li>• Museum Collections/book preservation</li> <li>• Forestry Management</li> <li>• Veterinary</li> <li>• Conservation of buildings, ‘sick building syndrome’.</li> </ul>
	<p>Biotechnology, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmaceutical</li> <li>• Agricultural</li> <li>• Mushroom Production</li> <li>• Recycling/composting/waste disposal.</li> <li>• Biofuel Production.</li> </ul>	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Field Mycology and Conservation committee (SJS)</b>	
	<p><b>SJS</b> presented a report on the recent activities and proposed future activities/events of the FMCC committee. <b>In 2011</b> the field meetings and workshops were all well attended and the</p>	

	<p>financial picture for the years activities show that of the £7400 funding requested the FMCC committee spent only £3500. This underspend is consistent with previous years and the FMCC would request that the surplus funds be made available to spend in new areas, such as the beginners workshops trialled in 2011, which were very well received and oversubscribed. A noticeable percentage of the attendees at these workshops were PhD and Post doctorate students, and future workshops may need to focus on these in its content.</p> <p><b>2012's</b> activities are all progressing well with healthy levels of bookings. Both workshops in the Forest of Dean are now fully booked with students making up 50% of attendees.</p> <p><b>2013's</b> proposed activity budgets were presented for Councils approval by SJS and had been previously approved at the last FMCC committee meeting on the 21st of February 2012. <b>Council approved these.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Microscopes Purchase.</b> An application for funding to purchase 4 microscopes for use at forays and workshops was presented. The popularity of the new workshop sessions and beginners forays have meant that insufficient access to microscopes prevents attendees from getting the most out of the event. The extra resource of 4 new microscopes will ensure these events remain popular and cost effective for the BMS. The sum requested for 2 compound microscopes and 2 dissecting microscopes is in total £1631.54. <b>Council approved this request.</b></p>	
	<p><b>FRDBI and Recording Software (Mycorec)</b> The FRDBI, Currently hosted at CABI for the BMS, will need to relocate when the administrator Dr Paul Kirk retires in August 2012. Initially RBG Kew was proposed to take this over, but the current situation means that a commercial server needs to be found. This would incur costs of up to £600 per year. Other solutions are currently being explored, but the popularity and hit rate of the site mean taking it offline for any length of time could be detrimental. Council are asked to approve the funding for temporary hosting in 2012/2013 if required.</p> <p><b>Council provisionally agreed subject to reported costs.</b></p>	
	<p>A software package developed in the 1990's by Jerry cooper needs upgrading. An application to DEFRA for a grant was unsuccessful. Dave Jeffries the software developer has offered to continue the development for just his expenses, waiving his normal fee for this one time. This would include travelling costs to London and to training meetings. The total cost would be approx. £1000. Council are asked to approve this expenditure. <b>Council approved</b></p>	
	<p><b>Autumn Open Meeting at Kew 2012: LB</b> has again offered to plan the meeting on the subject of Wood Decay Fungal Communities. The cost of this meeting will be £1500. Council are asked to approve this expenditure. <b>Council Approved</b></p>	
	<p><b>Conservation Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 5 yearly review of the Countryside and Wildlife act 1981 is in progress and two new fungi have been suggested. <i>Myriostoma coliforme</i> and <i>Boletus pseudoregius</i>. Both have been agreed by the BMS and Natural England.</li> <li>• Natural England has engaged Justin Smith, who is the new BMS conservation representative for England, to look for sites of mycological concern for consideration as SSSI's.</li> <li>• A review of the 'Guidelines for the selection of SSSI's' is underway, and Bruce Ing, BMS conservation officer, is coordinating a response to ensure fungi are fully mentioned.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Projects for 2012-update:</b> After discussions within the FMCC committee in</p>	

	<p>2011, priority objects for 2012 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DEFRA/BRC</b> funded project to assess recording techniques for less well recorder species groups –fungi, lichens, bryophytes. £6000 to BMS for expenses.</li> <li>• <b>A Narrative Summary</b> of FMCC committee minutes was written by Richard Fortey and circulated to group leaders. Feedback has been positive and this practise will continue.</li> <li>• <b>Extinct Species Project:</b> Martyn Ainsworth is continuing his Natural England project to assess the status of species that have not been recorded in the UK for the last 50 years.</li> <li>• <b>Common Species Project:</b> There has been some encouraging response to the website based common species project which will continue for another year, as it only started late in 2011. The BMS outreach page on the website is getting a lot of response from the membership.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Affiliated Groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Harries of the Pembrokeshire Fungus Recording Group has agreed to take over from Sheila Spence as Recording Group Leaders’ coordinator next year when she steps down.</li> <li>• The Group Leaders meeting in June 2012 is already well booked up and attendance should be good.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Publications Committee (PvW)</b>	
	<p><b>BMS Journals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fungal Biology-</b> Increasing papers submission and rise in the overall quality. The reviewing procedure is to be looked at to simplify the process of article submission. PvW raised a concern about retaining the clarity and resolution of articles during the editorial process, as this can sometimes affect the end print copy. This will be addressed through the publisher Elsevier. An editorial board meeting was proposed to address any concerns.</li> <li>• <b>Fungal Biology Reviews-</b> Four issues proposed each year and all 2011 issues were published on schedule. An impact factor has been applied for and any decision will be reported back at the next meeting. The first three 2012 issues are ready to go to press, with articles being commissioned for the fourth. Changes in the composition of the editorial board are due to be finalised soon.</li> <li>• <b>Fungal Ecology-</b> There are six issues published a year and in 2012 three of these will be special issues with a specific overarching topic or focus. All issues for 2012 are well on track. Fungal Ecology is a jointly owned publication between the BMS and Elsevier, and an option to buy Elsevier out may be considered as the publishing contract comes to an end in 2015.</li> <li>• <b>Field Mycology-</b> Four issues published a year. The editorial board attempt to keep two issues ahead to reduce the pressure on publishing deadlines. Supporting the publication of Field Mycology was an important part of the contract with Elsevier and needs to be part of any new publishing contract negotiated.</li> <li>• <b>BMS Newsletter-Mycologist News:</b> This continues to be published four times a year and is available to the membership mostly in electronic</li> </ul>	

	format, unless hard copy is directly requested. Content is always sought and Council and Committee members are encouraged to submit any items they feel the membership would appreciate.	
	<b>BMS website:</b> SJS has been looking to the three BMS committees to see what they would wish to include in their section of the website. NR had suggested at the Publications committee meeting, adding an item about the website to each committees meeting agenda, and feedback any ideas or suggestions to SJS as webmaster.	
	<p><b>Online Payment System:</b> Previously two Companies had been approached for the cost of adding this to the BMS website. Both came back with approximately the same figure of £9000. The current website development Company, <i>Souk</i>, has responded to enquiries from SJS that they may be able to provide this additional facility to the website more competitively than they first offered. The addition of online payment facilities for membership could significantly reduce administration, and encourage more people to join if they were able to do so online when they initially looked at the BMS website.</p> <p>A discussion about the merits of this ensued.</p> <p><b>Action: It was agreed that SJS would circulate the final costs of adding online payment to Council members and look for approval of this expenditure.</b></p> <p>NR asked what the costs to the Society will be year-on-year to keep the BMS website up-to-date, including software upgrades etc.? The current hosting costs are £60 per month (including VAT)</p> <p><b>Action: This will also be looked into by SJS and reported back when the final costs are known.</b></p> <p>Considerations were expressed as to how the current system of requiring two referees for membership application could be maintained. The guidelines from the Charities Commission require the Society to be open and accessible as part of its charitable remits, but as a Learned Society there needs to be some academic criteria to join! This needs some careful thought before the online payment and membership application is implemented.</p>	<p>SJS</p> <p>SJS</p>
<b>13.0</b>	<b>A.O.B. None were raised,</b>	
	<b>meeting closed at 4:30pm</b>	