



Registered Charity No. 1068608
www.herefordshirebirds.org

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on 15th February 2018 at Holmer Parish Centre

(unapproved)

Present: Gerald Wells, Chairman; John Pullen, President; Gareth Morgan & Tom Weale, Vice Presidents; Mervyn Davies; Norman Fincham; Susanna Grunsell; Mick Colquhoun; Una Morgan; Chris Robinson; Robert Taylor; Jim Wilkinson

1 Apologies: Rachel Jenkins and Nicky Davies

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th and 25th January. These were agreed and signed .

3 Matters arising:

3) 3.3 **Burley Gate update:** Robert reported on the meeting with Gavin Siriwardena on the morning after he spoke at the Indoor Meeting. He felt it was positive; Gavin was interested in the historical records and may consider digitization of Rachel's father's diaries. Gavin considered that while territory mapping was probably too ambitious some smaller scale surveys concentrating on a few target species could be conducted for the breeding season. He indicated the possibility of BTO working with us. The HOC team will meet mid/late March to plan breeding season counts and consider Gavin's ideas. Seeking possible collaboration with University or other bodies will be placed on hold at present.

5) **Indoor programme 2018-19:** The fee for Dominic Couzens has been agreed, so all speakers are arranged for 2018-9, Jim and Robert have investigated venues for the Tim Birkhead lecture (Feb. 2019), based on a possible audience of 120-150 and are likely to book Withington Hall which can accommodate 150-200, but we will need to bring a sound system.. This was agreed.

Action: Jim and Robert

6) **Bird ID courses:** Gerald and Chris have got agreement from Nick Moran of BTO for someone from HOC to attend a one day training the trainer course; an HOC individual needs to be identified who can then cascade the training. Chris recommended a course on farmland rather than wetland birds as more suitable for our county. One name was suggested and Gerald will approach.

Action: Gerald

7) **Charity Status:** Una is still looking at the Charity Commission website but asked the chairman to inform members at the AGM that we are considering a change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to enable us to own land and give limited liability to trustees.

Action: Una & Gerald

11) **Curlew Survey meeting** to be held on 23rd February at Holmer Committee room.

Action: Chris

4 Treasurers Report.

The report has been circulated. There are 7 new members and there are 24 yet to renew which is fairly typical. Jim reported that Gavin had declined his speaker's fee and last year's BTO speaker had not cashed his cheque. The committee agreed for the Treasurer to send a donation of £100 to BTO. It was agreed that new members would in future be listed in Newsletters.

Action: Jim & Nicky

5 Website

Robert spoke to his paper already circulated. He recommended that Chris and he manage the project with Mick's help. The committee would be regularly updated on progress. The Exec. Committee would have responsibility for signing off stages of the development. This was agreed.

He reported that the developer of the Berkshire site would not be able to do our project but was interested in

helping with the county Atlas records part of the site. Robert and Chris were investigating local firms for design of the main structure of the website. Robert will check with the Ordnance Survey re licence requirements. Other committee members will have some responsibility for different pages as per p2 of Robert's paper. We will need a webmaster – planned to be one of a small group leading the project. It was also recommended that officers managing parts of the website have generic emails. Walks/Site guides will go on the new website and are beginning to be loaded on the existing site. Going Birding will still be a hyperlink as now. The existing site will remain active until the new one is in place – planned for January 2019. Gerald will wait till our plans are tightened up before involving GOS.

Actions: Robert ,Chris & Gerald

6 Garden Birdwatch: Natalie and Ian Buttriss would like to step down from managing this because of Natalie's new job. The Committee thanked them for their work over the years. It was felt worth continuing as work had been done recently to incorporate some of GBW information into BirdTrack. Not many would want to join the BTO scheme at £17 pa and it was not compatible with our records. Jim suggested contacting existing members of GBW to see if anyone would take it over. Mervyn agreed to get a list so we could ask suitable candidates.

Action: Mervyn

7 Junior membership:

The committee thanked Andrew and Dan for their enthusiasm. Free junior membership was agreed for a year. There was a discussion on the age range target and the leaflet which needed some editing. As Andrew has agreed to come on the committee after the AGM, it was decided to bring this to the April committee meeting. Una will contact Andrew.

Action: Una

8 Correspondence

Aylestone Hill Planning application: It was felt there was no grounds for a formal objection and Gerald will reply to the various emails.

Action: Gerald

Western Bypass routes: Mervyn showed a booklet on the suggested routes he obtained at the presentation; closing date for objections is 20th March.. Gerald asked Norman to see what information there is on ecological reports or background relating to birds; Mervyn will look at the 1km squares involved in the routes and check atlas information to look for evidence. Gerald to contact HWT to obtain their view and enquire if they are making a formal objection. Gerald will contact Exec to make the final decision after Norman and Mervyn report back.

Action: Norman, Mervyn & Gerald

9 Sub Committee Business:

Editorial: 2016 report praised; The next editorial meeting will be early April

Record Working Group: Gerald has deposited more minutes and documents with Herefordshire Archives and Record Centre. Una has the list.

10 Outdoor Meeting Organiser: No volunteer has come forward to co-ordinate the group planning field meetings although there are plans through till December. Gerald will raise as part of his AGM address.

Action: Gerald

11 AGM and Committee posts

Una has nomination forms signed for appointing at the AGM. We are short of one Ordinary Committee member who could be co-opted later. Rachel has agreed to stay on doing indoor meeting speaker arrangements as before with the whole committee providing the names of potential speakers.

Una and Jim will be standing down in 2019, so hopefully committee members will keep on the lookout for successors who could work later this year with the Treasurer and Secretary to ensure a smooth transition.

12 Any Other Business

- Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy: Una will compile a draft for circulation using sample ones from appropriate websites. Our existing one of 2007 was incomplete.
- Wildlife Crime: Following the report of a possible wildlife crime at Bodenham (and possibly Hartleton) Gerald will do a newsletter item on wildlife crime involving birds. There was some concern about how the alleged incident at Bodenham was handled.
- Water levels at Brockhall have got much lower and there were no breeding records for 2017 as predators/people could easily reach the islands. Mick to contact the Duchy again.

Action: Mick

President John Pullen thanked the Chairman for his support and Gerald expressed his appreciation of John's input as President.

The next meeting is the AGM on 8th March and Thursday 19th April is the first date for the new Committee to meet.