

Herefordshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on 15th June 2017 at Holmer Parish Centre

~~(unapproved)~~

Present: Gerald Wells, Chairman; John Pullen, President; Gareth Morgan & Tom Weale, Vice Presidents; Susanna Grunsell, Una Morgan, Chris Robinson, Robert Taylor, Jim Wilkinson.

- 1) **Apologies;** Mick Colquhoun, Mervyn Davies, Nicky Davies, Norman Fincham, Rachel Jenkins
- 2) **Minutes of the Meeting of 20th April 2017:** These were approved and signed.
- 3) **Matters Arising:**

3.3 Burley Gate: Robert will ask for volunteers in the next newsletter published in August.

5.2 Broadmoor Common: The Secretary will check whether anyone is doing a survey.

6 BirdTrack Training: Chris Robinson only has 3 interested so far in the training at the College. It would have to be late afternoon at the College. He will get a date and Jim will publicise to the Club.

8 Records Working Group: Chairman still trying to set up a meeting with the Garden Bird Watch recorder.

9. 1 A.O.B. Mick has the Swift survey underway

9. 2 & 3 Meetings Organiser: The article had not made the last newsletter but would go in the next one. For indoor meetings we may have to continue as last year with the committee finding names of speakers and asking Rachel to do the emails. Secretary will check with Rachel if she is able to help.

John Pullen offered to lead a group to plan field meetings. Names were suggested the Chairman will follow up on formation of the group.

9.4 Breinton Planning Objection: Chris reported that he had investigated the current position but it is still too early as the firm route has not yet been decided and there are still funding issues.

- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** The June report had been circulated to the committee.
HWT were successful in their bid for the Lugg Meadow plot and we have received a very grateful thank you for our contribution of £10,000. Our money is on a 60 day notice but will go to HWT at the earliest possible date. Chairman passed round a map showing the plot. We were included in the publicity for the Hide at Bodenham in the Hereford Times. There will be a call for volunteers in the autumn for work around the hide.
- 5) **Correspondence:**
 1. **Croft Castle:** a walk is being led by Mervyn Davies as part of the programme on 13th July. Nick Smith will liaise with Mervyn and the Chairman about another Croft Castle walk next year with the National Trust.
 2. **Brockhall Gravel Pit:** the Chairman updated members on later correspondence since that circulated. It has been a good opportunity for liaison with the Duchy. Mick will provide lists of birds breeding and en passage to Charlotte from the Duchy. We will have access to another part of the site which we didn't have before and Mick will provide nest boxes for this south east part. John Pullen asked the Chairman to make sure this work was reported in the newsletter (possibly in the Chairman's notes).

6) **Sub Committee Business**

Education: A very good day at the new Bodenham hide and the stand at Ledbury Community day attracted interest. There were articles in the Hereford Times on the Bodenham hide.

Editorial: All the documents had gone to writers on 11th May and schedule was as agreed at the writers meeting in March. Brian Willder has had to resign as a writer due to family reasons.

Records: The Chairman's report on his and Nick's visit to the Archives had been circulated to committee members. The Chairman is still listing all electronic items. Jim had sent copies of missing annual reports. The Secretary now has a file copy of the deposit form for the items already submitted. A list of items deposited could go on Dropbox and possibly on the website. A query on minutes and accounts going to the Archives was raised. **The Secretary** will check what she currently holds and report to the September committee.

- 7) **Membership Survey:** Robert's draft article was discussed. The survey was one of the best surveys undertaken by the Club. It was suggested that the article is amended as bullet points and compressed for publication. A discussion on the website included having more newsletter type items on the website and the desire to make the website more appealing as the first port of call for information on birds in Herefordshire. Jim suggested we get a group of young people to look at what is needed to attract them to the website. **Chris** will talk to the Berkshire Ornithological Club website people as to members usage of their website and further explore how we might approach revision of the HOC website. **Robert** will circulate the next draft taking the discussion into consideration.

8) **Any Other Business:**

- 1) BTO had requested funding for Nightingale and Cuckoo research; it was agreed to donate £100.
- 2) Chris reported that the owner of the swallow barn was still working on the insurance aspect and will get back to us.

9) **Date of next meeting;**

Thursday 21st September at 7.00pm