



Registered Charity No. 1068608
www.herefordshirebirds.org

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at Holmer Parish Centre on Thursday 21st June 2018

Present: Susanna Grunsell Chairman; Gareth Morgan President; Mick Colquhoun; Mervyn Davies;; Una Morgan; Viv Quinn; Chris Robinson; Robert Taylor (Vice Chairman); Jim Wilkinson

1 Apologies: Nicky Davies; Gerald Wells; Norman Fincham; Rachel Jenkins; Tom Weale

2 Minutes of 19th April Meeting: These were agreed and signed.

3 Matters Arising:

- Brampton Abbots farmer's request (item 10): Chris had spoken to potential surveyors; agreed that Mick would contact the farmer offering to do the survey next year and find out more information. It was decided we should ask for some payment. Viv expressed interest in participating with an experienced surveyor.
Action: Mick
- Bird ID training (item 3: 3.6): Robert reported on a BTO course he attended run by Ed Drewitt. This trainer could do us a similar course for £150. It was discussed and agreed that it should be in the county in late April early May 2019 working with one of our members; with up to 12 and a maximum of 15 attending. Robert would make a preliminary booking and we would target those who expressed an interest in the members' survey and those who would benefit from the basic training.
Action: Robert
- Website (item 6) Work is under way and decisions on content and placing were discussed; we plan to have all annual reports but with the latest one only in the members' section; Mick's pictures would be used and he would liaise with the developer; Una will send 3 years of approved committee minutes. Robert will email what is wanted to the appropriate contacts. Robert hopes it will soon be in a position to show the new website to the committee.
Action: Una & Robert
- Wildlife Crime (item 3: 11) Gerald has prepared notes on his actions – distributed with the agenda

4 Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report had been circulated. One new member was a result of the nest box recording meeting. We have had a request for funding for HWT to install electric fences around curlew nests. We will consider it for Lugg Meadow for next year. Already done by other counties and Gloucester had offered a loan for this year but impractical in crops. Chris will liaise with Pete Johnson of HWT.

Action: Chris

5 Update on Herefordshire Birding Sites:

More help is needed to get guides for more sites.

Mervyn has offered to do 4 National Trust sites; Viv will see if she can do Wellington (Jim will send the existing written info to her); It was suggested that Gerald Parker might do Brockhall.

Jim will ask Trevor Hulme to do Bodenham.

A new one on Winforton will be in the next newsletter with an article by Robert asking for more volunteers.

Maps are still an issue and how to incorporate them in the new website.

Currently new members receive the guides and it was decided it should go to all members by email. . Robert and Jim will liaise. We will think about a printed booklet.

Action: Jim, Robert & Mervyn

6 Correspondence

Mortimer Forest: Committee agreed Robert's notice which had been emailed could go on the website

Canada Geese: Committee agreed to support HWT's policy so we did not need a speaker at the committee. Mick will write to Bryn at HWT. **Action: Mick**

Swan Refuge: this was discussed and felt there was no precedent or history of success. Susanna will contact the enquirer and recommend they talk to WWT or a Swannery. **Action: Susanna**

Swifts in Ledbury: we had been approached by Ledbury Naturalists as there were concerns about work on the roof of the old library which could affect the swift nesting. Ledbury Places now own the building and have met with Led Nats. Led Nats will be doing a survey in Ledbury of swifts and Susanna and John Davies will be involved.

7 Indoor Speakers

Robert's list was briefly discussed and all the committee members are asked to bring suggestions to the September meeting to get a list for Rachel to contact potential speakers for 2019-20. It was agreed that Robert's framework suggested for the coming year was worth continuing with a mix of local, international, one on a species and one more "scientific".

Action: All members

8 Outdoor Meetings

The Notes of a meeting of HOC Field meetings working group had been sent with the agenda. The Committee congratulated them on their progress. We would also look for new potential leaders for field meetings.

9 Queenswood HWT event 12th August

We hope to do a stall aimed at young children (it is a Gruffalo event). Jim has a Gazebo and several have offered to help. Una will check on reserved parking and liaise with Viv re the stand's display.

Action: Una & Viv

10 Safeguarding/ Child Protection Policy:

It was agreed we want a simple straightforward policy; this will be on the September agenda

Action: Una

11 Sub Committee Business

Editorial: 2017 report – work in progress.

Rarity Committee will meet in July

12 Charity Status

Work still to be done. It was suggested we check whether a new member who was a solicitor would help.

Action: Una

15 Any Other Business

Young Birders: Robert has suggested we try to set up a meeting with other local nature groups to see if there is a way we could work together to attract young people. Robert & Susanna will draft a letter and bring to the September committee and then send out shortly after. Mick reminded us that the website has a good list of the likely organisations.

Action: Robert & Susanna

Chris reported that the Swallow Barn is still not sold.

The nest record day was very successful and involved 2 from other counties; there is now a Whats App Forum for nest finders. Chris will do a newsletter item (deadline 14th July)

Action: Chris

Date of next meeting Thursday 20th September 2018