



Registered Charity No. 1068608  
www.herefordshirebirds.org

## Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at Holmer Parish Centre on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Present:** Gareth Morgan President; Robert Taylor (Acting Chairman); Mick Colquhoun; Mervyn Davies; Norman Fincham; Una Morgan; Viv Quinn; Chris Robinson; Gerald Wells

**1 Apologies:** Susanna Grunsell; Nicky Davies; Rachel Jenkins; Tom Weale; Jim Wilkinson.

**2 Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> June Meeting:** These were agreed and signed.

### **3 Matters Arising:**

- Brampton Abbots farmer's request: Mick has spoken to the farmer who is keen to proceed; he has previously had an RSPB survey which may have involved John Pullen. Mick will arrange a further meeting to sort out the survey –possibly with Viv and John Pullen  
**Action: Mick**
- Bird ID training: A provisional date with Ed Drewitt has been suggested for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May possibly at Sellack where there is a Hall near good birding sites. The final arrangements will be made later but Dan Webb plus one other was decided as the experienced birder for that site. **Action Robert**
- Queenswood event –HOC stall cancelled as not enough members were able to help
- Swallow Barn: the owner believes he has a purchaser and Chris will follow up. The owner seems to be happy to wait for our change in Charity Status (which would have to be after next AGM).
- Hereford Bypass: the link to the planning papers confirming the route was circulated but no further action until there is more information

### **4 Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's report had been circulated.

The need for a new Treasurer (and a Secretary) by the next AGM will be a substantive item on the November agenda, with everyone asked to think of possibilities. It can also be raised at the next Indoor meeting. The Secretary will circulate the existing Committee post and roles. The Secretary and Treasurer will also concentrate on potential replacements.  
**Action All**

### **5 Website Actions Update**

Robert demonstrated some of the new website (offline as no WiFi) and talked through some options.

It was agreed that specific maps showing the walking routes round the bird sites would be a good idea, but not realistic to include at this time. He plans to take off personal email addresses and use generic HOC ones that will transfer with new post holders. Some gallery items will not fully transfer, but it was agreed to transfer a small number of the most recent items and then restart the gallery on the new website.

The website actions list was reviewed and will be updated by Robert. Mick, Chris and Mervyn have sent in the new text for surveys and submissions, and will give further thought to making the county records accessible via the new website. Una has sent copies of recent Committee and AGM Minutes. All other outstanding actions to be completed as soon as possible by all relevant persons.  
**Action All**

It is hoped to launch in January.

### **6 Herefordshire Birding Sites:**

Various names were suggested to Robert for particular sites.

## **7 Mortimer Forest**

There were some updates on the Forestry Commission website. Our existing statement on the website is still relevant.

## **8 Indoor Speakers**

Robert's list and Meryn and Viv' suggestions were discussed

Chris Robinson would follow up a potential curlew speaker; Robert would informally approach Professor Nick Davies as a potential Dr Walker speaker. Other names agreed were Ed Drewett on local raptors, including some identification pointers; Dave Barnes on 50 best birds; Peter Morris on Bird song identification; Mark Cocker on the "corvid family" .

A garden bird watch speaker may detract from our own Garden bird watch and the BTO one has been covered in a relatively recent talk.

The Secretary will give the information to Rachel to try to make arrangements once we have confirmation from Robert that Nick Davies should be contacted .

**Action: Una, Chris and Robert**

## **9 Outdoor Meetings**

Gerald Wells reported that the draft programme for next year is in progress, with mainly familiar leaders. There will be another joint butterfly walk in July.

## **10 Nest box Proposal**

Andrew Strong's draft proposal was discussed and the Acting Chairman and Secretary will draft a response. It was felt that more information was needed before any decisions were made. This included checking with Dave Coker where we already have nest boxes and how the BTO scheme works in the existing 20 sites.

**Action: Robert and Una**

## **11 Proposed meeting with partner organisations**

Robert's draft letter agreed with the suggestion that no specific date or time is mentioned until we see the interest

**Action: Robert**

## **12 Safeguarding/ Child Protection Policy:**

Una's clear and succinct draft was discussed and suggestions made; it should cover safeguarding and not just Child Protection and how records are kept and confidentiality observed. Norman will help Una and a revised draft will go to the next committee.

**Action: Una & Norman**

## **13 Sub Committee Business**

Editorial: 2017 report – up to date on progress although still awaiting some review articles  
Rarity Committee will meet in October

## **12 Charity Status**

Work still ongoing.

**Action: Una**

## **15 Any Other Business**

Curlews: Chris has had a good meeting on Lower Lugg Meadows with HWT, Natural England and Plant Life. (ownership is complicated!) Hope to get a solution with the key players in January.

Upper Lugg has no curlews but HWT considering sectioning off a part from Dog walkers for the relevant months. The Herefordshire Curlew Group will meet in next couple of months to review progress and look at the way forward. More sites were found so more monitors will be needed from April. Money may be needed for electric fencing where it can be used, trail cameras and nest temperature recording. Chris has been working with the Gloucester group who have a licence for "head starting".

It was agreed that the Curlew Project would be an official HOC project.

There was a query on the briefing given to speakers as the quality of the first presentation was a trifle disappointing despite the interesting subject matter. It was agreed that a briefing note should be prepared for use with all speakers.

**Action: Robert and Rachel**

**Date of next meeting Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

