

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Holmer Parish Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Sophie Cowling and Andrew Nixon (HWT) gave a presentation on proposals for Phase 2 developments at Bodenham Lake, followed by questions from the Committee.

**Present:** Gareth Morgan, President; Robert Taylor, Vice Chair; Martin Winrow; Josephine Spencer; Mick Colquhoun, Mervyn Davies, Chris Robinson; Gerald Wells.

### Governance

1. **Apologies:** Nicky Davies. Stephanie Greenwood, Susanna Grunsell, Rachel Jenkins, Viv Quinn, Mike Townsend,

The new committee members were welcomed.

2. A discussion took place regarding managing Committee business. Members suggested:
  - (a) greater delegation to sub-committees/task groups to help streamline Committee meetings
  - (b) agreement on and greater prioritisation of important strategic items
  - (c) better clarification of agreed actions
  - (d) better tracking of progress on actions
  - (e) greater detail in Minutes
  - (f) better definition of Members' roles and responsibilities
  - (g) better succession planning.

**Josephine**  
Locate copies of Committee roles and responsibilities and Committee strategy documents prepared previously.

3. **Minutes from previous meeting 21st February 2019** were agreed and signed.

### 4. **Actions from previous meeting**

- Susanna and Robert are meeting Stephanie Greenwood on 1st May to discuss and agree her role.
- Need to check with Una that key holder names have been changed.
- Mick reported the swift nest boxes have been ordered and everything is in place to proceed.
- Mick reported that final discussions about the seabird survey are underway. Martin offered to survey (some) of the sites in Hay-on-Wye.

**Susanna & Robert**

**Josephine**

## 5. Treasurer's report

Martin reported that the new signatures have been rejected by the bank and we need to re sign and resubmit, but that temporary procedures are in place to enable payments to be made.

**Martin**

Some details of the membership forms need to be updated.

**Robert & Martin**

## 6. Policies & Procedures

There were no items.

## 7. Membership

There were no items.

## Conservation

### 8. 8.1. Consideration of request from HWT for funds to support Bodenham Proposal.

Discussion on the earlier presentation by the HWT took place. A further £30,000 is required by the project. The Committee needed to make a decision about (a) Is this a project that should be supported and (b) what scale of financial support should be offered. The Committee agreed that, in principle, the project should be supported. Discussion then took place about a number of issues, including:

- (a) how we assure ourselves that it supports our aims as a Club;
- (b) how we ensure sufficient input into developments (it was suggested that it would be useful for Robin Hemmings who attends the Bodenham Management Committee on HOC's behalf used to provide regular feedback to the Committee.}
- (c) how we monitor success of the developments in terms of increases in bird numbers/species.

**Mick. To contact Robin to discuss with informally him whether he might join the Committee. If he will, Susanna and Robert will meet him.**

Discussion of the potential donation led to an agreement that the Club should donate £5000, but also hold some funds in reserve for future management of the re-developed areas and that a covering letter should cover the issues discussed.

**Robert. To draft letter.**

### 8.2. Consideration of Conservation Fund request from Archie Buttress for project at Pencoyd.

We have had no formal submission from Archie Buttress.

**Robert. To contact Archie to check if he wants to proceed.**

### 8.3. Discussion on HOC position regarding “netting” of hedges and trees in Herefordshire.

It was agreed that we need a position on this - netted trees are going to be cut down and there is no nesting in them if netted. We need to clarify with the planning department at the council about this issue and what their procedures are.

**Robert.** To draft letter.  
**Martin.** To check with his contact who best person to write to is.

### 8.4. Hedgerow Survey

There were mixed views on whether or not the Club should support the online petition prepared by Planlife. Insufficient Members had read the full details of the petition for a decision to be reached.

## Events

### 9. Indoor meetings

Discuss the speakers for 2020/2021 at the June committee meeting.

### 10. Field meetings

Gerald reported that there is a sub committee meeting in May to plan the 2020 field meetings. Additional event leaders are required.

Confirmation of the date of the field trip to Highnam Wood is needed by Members.

**Robert:** send Gerald details of site guide writers.  
**Gerald (text) & Martin (email).**

### 11. Others events

#### Update on bird id course

Unfortunately the course has been cancelled for this year as there are no others suitable dates after the person running the course became unavailable on 1st May.

**Robert:** make arrangements for similar course in 2020.

#### Herefordshire Country Fair, Wormbridge 4 August 2019

The Club has received an invitation to have a stall.

**Robert:** Place item in Newsletter seeking volunteers.

#### Ledbury Community Day

Gareth provided an update. There are have often not been enough people to run the HOC stalls and our whole display needs up dating but still it is worthwhile to have a stall. Gareth and Susanna have agreed to run this stall.

**Robert:** Place item in Newsletter seeking volunteers.

#### Request for talk at Bodenham Garden Club

Mervyn confirmed that he and Susanna will get together and put a "Club Talk" together on garden birds that can be used for requests by other clubs.

Mervyn &  
Susanna prepare  
"Club talk"  
Chris prepare  
"Club talk"

Chris is giving talk on "Birds of Herefordshire" and will prepare a "Club Talk".

## Communications & Publicity

### 12. Update on website and discussion about proceeding with County Atlas and Records database

Discussion postponed until June committee meeting.

## Records & Publications

### 13. Annual Report

Mervyn reported that the Annual Report Writers' Meeting was scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Rarities Sub-Committee

Mick has received records from the BBRC. It was agreed that these should be archived at HARC.

Susanna. To  
arrange  
archiving.

Mick reported posting of sensitive species information on Club's Twitter feed - this has now been deleted from Club feed, but the issue is complex and needs serious discussion at next Committee meeting.

## Any other business

### 14. Martin sought confirmation on Club logo and it was agreed that further copies of car badges needed ordering.

Martin. Order  
additional Club  
car badges.

It was noted that Jim Wilkinson has offered to continue proof reading the Newsletter, and this was appreciated. Martin agreed to email the Newsletter to members, provided supporting email text was provided.

Martin & Robert.  
Arrange for email  
of Newsletter.

## Future agenda items (agreed at meeting)

15. 15.1. Discussion of Club's strategic priorities
- 15.2. Hedgerow (Verge) Petition
- 15.3. Indoor meeting speakers for 2020/21
- 15.4. County Atlas and Records database
- 15.5. Sensitive species reporting

Josephine. Add  
to agenda of next  
meeting.

## Date of next meeting

16. 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019