



Minutes of Committee meeting 19th September 2019

Held at Holmer Hall Committee Room at 7.00 pm

Present: Susanna Grunsell, Gareth Morgan, Gerald Wells, Chris Robinson, Martin Winrow, Rachel Jenkins, Stephanie Greenwood, Mick Colquhoun, Josephine Spencer.

Governance

1. Apologies.

Robert Taylor, Viv Quinn, Mervyn Davies.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting approved and signed.

3. Actions from previous meeting.

No actions from previous meeting.

4. Treasurer's report.

Written report not received but received after the meeting and sent to all the committee members. Treasurer requested the committee to send in any expenses expected for the completion of the annual budget.

5. Policies & Procedures.

5.1 HOC Key Priorities 2020-2023:

The feeling of the committee was that this document needed more time for discussion and an 'Away Day' was suggested to fully address this. Points raised in discussion were: (a) the Club lacks people and skills to do suggested activities and (b) it was suggested that the membership should be asked for their views.

Other comments included: the newsletter and website are essential; indoor meetings and field meetings were no problem; it was agreed that publicity was a problem; climate change – what is our policy? It was agreed that committee members write to the Secretary with a list of priorities to be circulated before next meeting.

5.2 Working collaboratively with other organisations:

The Chair reported back on a meeting with Andrew Nixon of HWT. Agreed to ask Council for follow up action re-their statement on climate crisis. Rachel pointed out that the Woolhope Club had not been contacted re-their involvement with HOC in the future.

5.3 Membership:

Robert and Susanna have met with James Newton. He would be willing to work with the club encouraging younger members, but he is not available for a few months.

5.4 Newsletter Editor:

Martin reported that 25% of members still receive a paper copy so moving to a web-based newsletter would disenfranchise many members. Rachel suggested if money available to employ a student to do this. Advertised on College notice boards, ask admin departments where best to advertise at the college and the College for the blind. Stephanie to follow this up and ask Nicky for a job description of editor's job.

5.5 Charity Status:

Chris Robinson reported that Leslie Wiles owner of the barn with nesting swallows had finally found a buyer and was wanting to re-open our agreement negotiations. This was discussed in relation to changing the charitable status of the club.

Action: Chris Robinson

Conservation

6. **Conservation funding** for Archie Buttress' application – He will buy a good seed mixture from a farmer in three weeks and sow in early spring for a crop of seed in August next year. HOC agreed to pay £250 for seed when he has purchased it.
7. **Chase Hotel application** – Tony Eveleigh to keep us informed of any further action on Chase Hotel site.
8. **Bodenham Lake update** – See Robert's comment about inviting of Sophie Cowling to next meeting.
9. **Wellington Gravel Pits** – Mick reported that there was discussion between the owners and Tarmac re-long-term future of the site.
10. **Curlew Update** – Chris reported that only one bird fledged in the county and mixed results. He is meeting next week with HWT re Lugg Meadows plans. He has applied for a license to weigh eggs and place nest temperature loggers. The problem is lack of volunteers to monitor this project.
11. **Gulls in Herefordshire** – Mick said there was no further action required.
12. **Species-specific work** – Curlew work to be supported. Agreed to £100 to Amanda Perkins in Shropshire at her excellent talk at indoor meeting. We need further information from HWT on species-specific conservation activities that HOC can do.

Events

- 13. Indoor speakers** – Rachel requested we all send via the Secretary the top preferred speakers from the list in Robert’s document and those in the last minutes. She will then contact them re-possible talks in 2020/2021.

Communications & Publicity

No items.

Records & Publications

No items.

Any other business

Due to amount of time spent on policies and procedures document we were unable to complete the agenda at this meeting. Items will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 21st November 2019 at Holmer Hall Committee Room

7 January 2020