



Minutes of Committee meeting 21st November 2019

Held at Holmer Hall Committee Room at 7.00 pm

The Committee Meeting was preceded by a presentation by Sophie Cowling (HWT)

Works scheduled for this winter on Bodenham Lake have been postponed due to flooding and will restart in September 2020 after the breeding season has completed. An additional bird hide planned for Sept 2020 and sited on an old track near the car park will provide good access for those with limited mobility. Once the works are completed regular monitoring of bird species will be continued through the WeBS monthly counts currently being carried out, allowing the impact of the developments to be determined.

As part of the Lugg Living Landscape programme, HWT is in the process of trying to buy additional land between Bodenham Lake and Wellington Gravel Pits.

HOC was thanked for submitting comments about the proposed developments by Tarmac at Wellington GP and it was reported that the Environment Agency is objecting to the proposals on the grounds that previous restorative measures have not been implemented. The design of restorative measures needs to be improved and conditions of planning expressed quantitatively. HWT aim to encourage Tarmac to adopt approaches used at Bodenham Lake. It is likely that further applications for developments to the north of the site will be made in the future.

HOC can provide key support as follows:

- It is important that HOC becomes a registered consultee for future planning applications at all sites of ornithological importance and Sophie will send details of how to do this.
- By commenting on future applications.
- Through monitoring and recording at sites.
- HOC to designate “sites of ornithological interest”, to include Lugg Bridge (Hereford) Quarry.

Action: Committee to consider the issue of designating sites of ornithological interest. (including Lugg Bridge Quarry).

Present: Susanna Grunsell, Robert Taylor, Martin Winrow, Gareth Morgan, Gerald Wells, Mervyn Davies, Viv Quinn, Josephine Spencer.

Governance

1. **Apologies:** Stephanie Greenwood, Chris Robinson, Mick Colquhoun, Rachel Jenkins.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting:**

- **Action:** Secretary to revise minutes and send out to committee to be signed at the next meeting.
- Chair suggested due to time limitation for the rest of the meeting, that the agenda be revised to priority matters. This was agreed. It was suggested that some items might have to be considered by sub-committees or by holding additional meetings.

3. **Actions from previous meeting:**

3.1 Newsletter editor:

Chair informed that Innes Jones from the Art College has expressed interest in the Newsletter editor position. Martin has also received an email from someone else expressing an interest in the editor role. **Actions:** Chair to liaise with Innes and Nicky re-statement of agreement on roles and responsibilities. Martin to forward email to Committee.

3.2 Strategic priorities. Deferred to next meeting.

3.3 Charity status. Deferred to next meeting.

3.4 Indoor speakers:

The speaker for January 2020 is not available. **Action:** It was agreed that Robert and Mick should give a talk "Wetland Warblers in Herefordshire" on 9 Jan.

The website needs updating on for the January indoor meeting. **Action:** Robert to update.

Rachel has reported that three of next year's speakers have agreed and reminders have been sent to the other three. Robert reported that the two speakers who had to cancel recently would be approached for the following year.

The Dr Walker memorial lecture in February 2021. It was agreed the speaker should be Ben McDonald to talk on "Rewilding Birds".

4. **Treasurer's report.** Received (copy attached with these Minutes)

5. **Membership matters.** None.

6. **Policies & Procedures.**

Allocation of Committee responsibilities deferred to later meeting.

Conservation

7. Mortimer Forest.

Chair reported having received an email from Sarah Pearce re-10-year community and recreation plan for Mortimer Forest. She requested our involvement. Chair and Vicechair discussed and agreed involvement to provide bird list of area if requested. We are waiting to hear from Sarah Pearce re-grid reference of relevant squares.

Wellington Gravel Pits.

HOC have made submission to the Council following planning permission from Tarmac.

Events

8. Field meetings. Nothing to discuss.

9. Bird ID courses. Deferred to next meeting.

Communications & Publicity

10. Website issues. Deferred to later meeting.

11. Website meeting between Martin, Robert and Cheryl

At the meeting, the limitations of website and emails were discussed. Martin has investigated alternative hosts. There are general problems with the dedicated server. It was suggested that the use of MailChimp should be looked at in more detail.

Action: Martin to continue these investigations asking for quotes.

12. Club role at public events. Deferred to later meeting.

Records & Publications

13. Update on annual report

The draft scripts have all been received and the completed report should be ready to send for proof-reading early next week. A quotation for printing will be requested from CMP at the end of November and the Executive will need to give approval to proceed.

Mervyn also requested an updated members list from Martin by 31st Dec to allow address labels to be produced. **Action: Mervyn to send quote to Executive and Martin to send updated list of members.**

Any other business

14. The vicar has requested that the HOC screen to be removed from the church hall cupboard. In future it was agreed that we would use the existing hall screen and arrange the chairs in a semi-circle. **Action: Martin offered to store HOC screen.**

15. The 10m extension VGA video cable is missing. **Action:** Martin will check out our projector or hall projector for suitability and investigate the missing cable.

Future agenda items (agreed at meeting)

- Strategic priorities and charity status. Brief update.
- Field meetings – Bird ID courses.
- Lugg Bridge Quarry – query designation as a site of ornithological interest.
- Agenda for the AGM

Date of next meeting

Thursday 16th January 2019 at Holmer Hall Committee Room

7 January 2020