



**Minutes of Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 7.00pm**

**By Zoom Conference**

<b>Present:</b> Mick Colquhoun, Mervyn Davies, Susanna Grunsell, Rachel Jenkins, Gareth Morgan, Chris Robinson, Nick Smith, Wendy Tanner, Daniel Webb, Gerald Wells, Martin Winrow		
<b>Governance:</b>		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies:</b> Trevor Hulme, Toby Fountain	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Conflicts of Interest:</b> Correspondence recorded at 6.1 now subject to court case so not subject for discussion (NS)	
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021:</b> Approved	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Actions arising from previous meetings:</b> None from April Meeting Strategy meeting covered at 10.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Treasurer's report:</b> Circulated with Agenda Query raised concerning £22k in current Account as generally only £6 -7k kept in this Account. A further transfer of £10k will shortly be made to a 12-month saver account. The Treasurer advised that the April report should have stated that the HOC donation of £5,000 to HWT toward the purchase of Oak Tree Farm was completed as planned.	<b>MW</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> <b>6.1</b> " A request for contact details for William Marler (HOC Member) was received from Chantal Hagen of Natural England - "Mr Marler might be able to assist in providing me with ornithological information that might assist as part of an investigation I am carrying out on the River Lugg SSSI." This is now a court matter - William Marler and Chris Robinson are in direct contact with Natural England."  Advisory only as this now a legal matter  Martin advised that all requests for personal information is covered by data protection and contact details should not be handed out without permission.	

	<p><b>6.2</b> A request for help for a fruit farm bird survey has been received from a fruit farm group in Herefordshire administered by Jake Simpson. Gerald has contacted him to see if a meeting is required to ascertain more precise requirements, but no reply has been received.</p> <p>Nick advised that there is no current requirement by DEFRA for monitoring for subsidies and grants but under future ELM policy this may be required in two to three years and pilot schemes are in place. Currently Woodland management relies mainly on BTO/RSPB data, but for Farmland management monitoring by local groups may be required in future.</p> <p>Martin queried whether HOC could charge for this service.</p>	
<b>Conservation:</b>		
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Legacy Ideas:</b> The Chair proposed that the legacy be displayed on the website as a named dedicated conservation fund; “The Gardner Conservation Fund” to separate it from our general conservation fund. It was agreed that in due course as named projects (consistent with the Club’s objectives) are rolled out utilising the fund they can thereby be attributed specifically to the benefactors and publicized to the membership accordingly. The Chair will select a panel to evaluate and prioritise ideas. The timescale was questioned and the Chair indicated that it would depend on responses to agreed actions, but as the Treasurer had agreed with the benefactors family an update on progress of initial ideas would be made available by autumn.”</p>	<b>GW</b>
<b>Events:</b>		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Field Meeting Update:</b> A meeting of the WG took place at the Pilgrim Hotel on 21<sup>st</sup> June and plans are well in hand. The meetings Notices (up to Dec. 2021) will be finalised in time to be published in the August Newsletter. The information should be posted on the website as soon as available.</p>	<b>SG/FW</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Indoor Meetings:</b> This winter programme is complete but there is still a lot of uncertainty as to whether these meeting should be held via Zoom or at a venue. Rachel will confirm the preferences of the speakers and advise accordingly. A mixture of both types of meeting will probably be the best solution but will be dependent on speakers and the pandemic. It is important not to lose the social aspect of the club. Meetings at a venue with facilities for others to join by Zoom and extending meetings over summer months are options to be considered. It was thought that to offer more than one meeting per month would dilute attendance and would have budget implications. At some stage charging for Zoom meetings will need to be addressed. When possible a dedicated social evening/meeting will be considered. Access to webinars/zoom talks by other clubs for little cost is also available.</p> <p>Rachel has asked that ideas for the 2022-23 winter season be submitted by</p>	<b>RJ</b>          <b>ALL</b>

	the end of July ready for finalising at the September Committee Meeting.	
<b>Communications &amp; Publicity:</b>		
<b>10</b>	<p>Strategy Meeting: The request for more meetings at weekends to make them more accessible for families was discussed by the Field Meeting Group but it was decided that this would need careful consideration as a number of venues would be unsuitable due to the large number of visitors to sites during these times. There would be a mix of weekday and weekend meetings as far as possible.</p> <p>Gerald and Dan have yet to schedule a time (<i>scheduled at end of meeting</i>) to discuss proposals aimed at attracting younger members. Other action points not yet completed so no further progress has been made.</p> <p>Nick suggested a time scale should be in place for following up actions. The Chair agreed to progress.</p>	<b>GW/DW</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>HOC Communication Policy:</b> Mick raised this as he receives misplaced and random enquiries from members of the public, discussion took place as to how better direction for queries could be created on the website. The frequency of such enquiries does not warrant further action at this stage..	<b>MC/CR</b>
<b>Records &amp; Publications:</b>		
<b>12</b>	<b>Annual Report:</b> Mervyn reported the report is on track, with a number of articles finalised and will be ready for the Autumn	<b>MD</b>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Website:</b> Some progress has been made with maintenance. Gerald has reviewed the website and identified page which need updating. The photo gallery still has issues which need to be addressed and Mick is continuing to work on this.</p> <p>No progress has been made with remaining actions of the working group and the proposed meeting for end of June has been cancelled.</p>	<b>GW/MC</b>
<b>Any other business:</b>		
<b>14.</b>	<p>14.1 Susanna queried whether names at outdoor meeting should be taken for track and trace – Gerald has looked into this and advised it is not a legal requirement as meetings involve less than 30 people and “outdoors” is not a venue requiring a sign in as defined in Covid regulations.</p> <p>14.2 Susanna also raised the issue of car sharing for outdoor meetings, but it was felt that with Covid still being an issue this was not worth pursuing at the moment.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.10pm</p>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b>		
	23 <sup>rd</sup> September, 2021	

Wendy Tanner 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Edited by Gerald Wells