



Berkshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Thursday 10TH November 2011
at Radstock Lane Community Centre, Earley

Present: Renton Righelato (chair), John Roberts (Treasurer), Mike Turton (Secretary), Debby Reynolds, Ray Reedman, Ted Rogers, Ken Moore, Colin Wilson, Hugh Netley

1. Apologies for absence: Neil Bucknell, Bill Nicoll, Heidi Bailey, Chris Heard, John Lerpiniere, Ken White, Sarah Priest.

2. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 6th July 2011 were approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Item 6 (March 2011 meeting) – Draft certificate for Dot circulated. Agreed, with some changes made to the wording. Need to define criteria for long service awards.

Item 4 (July 2011 meeting) – Acknowledgement of grant to BBOWT. BOC website has been updated. BBOWT to include acknowledgement in project report. Need to ensure that any goods and equipment donated to other organisations is labelled.

Item 7 (July 2011 meeting) – RDAA. No further progress. Meeting with Del Shackleford to view site and agree mitigation measures did not take place – needs to be rescheduled. Issue has been discussed with TABCG.

Action: RRi to write article for newsletter on relationship between anglers and birdwatchers.

Item 8 (July 2011 meeting) – TR has sent trip report extracts to Mike Taylor.

Item 13 (July 2011 meeting) - RRe circulated copy of bird ID leaflet and photos of the exhibition at the Rain Forest Experience. Event went well.

Action: DR to pass copy of photos to NDOC committee.

Item 14 (July 2011 meeting) – Printing. Action closed – printing arrangements to be reviewed in time for next summer mailing.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Report and copy of the 2010/11 accounts circulated prior to meeting.

It was noted that the problems with collecting subscriptions are not unique to the BOC.

a. 2010/11 Accounts

The Atlas fund has been presented within the General Account in the accounts, even though it is a restricted fund.

Action: RRi to work with JR to separate out figures for Atlas Fund from General Account on the report to be put to the AGM.

Increased subscriptions providing sufficient income to build up funds for production of reports as well as maintaining reserves.

The FoLL raffle will not be repeated. Any donations to organisations should be through the Conservation Fund or a raffle to raise funds for a specific project.

Accounts approved for presentation to the AGM subject to the changes to the presentation of the Atlas Fund. Approved *nem com*.

b. 2011/12 Budget

The 2011/12 budget was circulated prior to the meeting. Budget to continue along same lines as 2010/11 for next 2 years. Note was made of provision for production of Atlas and reports and an increase in expenditure from the Conservation Fund. The provision of £500 for expenditure on the RG exhibition was removed as CW anticipated that there would be no additional costs. Budget approved subject to change above. Any significant deviation to the budget must be brought to the committee for approval.

c. Fundraising

CW proposed that BOC register with easyfundraising.org.uk (an online shopping portal) which will generate funds for the Club. The Committee agreed that registration did not imply endorsement by the Club of the retailers concerned. CW asked to investigate further, particularly looking at set-up costs, implications for charitable status, possible levels of income which could be generated and what we would do with the money raised.

5. **AGM**

Business to finish by 20:30.

Action: TR to issue reminder email to all members 3 days beforehand. RRi to send out notice via Berksbirds.

Election of officers and committee members

Election of officers: RRi, MT and JR willing to continue for another year.

Three new committee members required 2 for 3 years and 1 for 2 years. Current nominations are Tim Ball (proposed by RRi) and Martin Sell (proposed by MT). Both were approved by the Committee.

CW proposed Carole White.

Action: RRi to contact Carole before the AGM

Action: DR to contact Nancy Massie to ask if she would be willing to serve on the committee in the future.

Action: MT to approach people who volunteered to help in the questionnaire to ask if they would be willing to serve on the committee in the future.

Publicity officer

Concern was expressed that the role is too strictly defined. Need to recruit someone who is enthusiastic about the Club, who is willing to develop the role in line with their skills and who is willing/able to seek assistance from other people where needed. It was decided that the Committee should appoint someone after the AGM.

Presentations

Treasurer's report – JR.

Chair/officers' report - RRi. To include presentations to Dot and Ruth.

Action: all officers to submit short report to RRi in the next week

Questionnaire: MT to present key points and actions.

Birding Highlights: KM to produce report. TR to present it.

6. **Editorial Board Reports**

2006/7 Report

CW presented verbal report. Time available to work on report has been very restricted and report still needs a substantial amount of work as species accounts for two different years are in very different styles & need merging. RRi, RRe and CW to discuss.

2008 Report onwards

Report from KM circulated prior to meeting.

CDRH wants 2006/7 report to be published before the 2008 report.

2008: KM unable to commit to dates for report until he has met with all those involved.

2009: systematic list to be written over the winter.

2010: need to put out request for records via all possible channels.

Need to introduce cut-off dates for record submission as the production cycle settles down.

Derek Barker now has internet access.

Action: KM/JR to arrange payment as discussed at last meeting.

7. **Membership Sub-committee Report**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

CW stated that he wished to step back from a number of the membership sub-committee roles. He would continue with the arrangements for BOC involvement in the RG exhibition.

MT to meet with Heidi & JR to discuss membership processes, including arrangements for issue of QMR permits.

Problems being caused by old membership forms still in use.

Action: MT to supply JR with stock of current forms, ask committee members to destroy old forms and check which version of the form is on the website.

Requests for changes to website content to go direct to Mike Taylor.

Ruth has offered to help with the production of the programme insert for the current membership leaflet.

8. **Memorial for Gordon Langsbury**

The Gordon Langsbury Cup (for the winner of the photographic competition) already exists as a memorial. Gordon's son will be presenting the trophy at the next competition.

RRe proposed a county-wide photographic competition for young people, possibly in conjunction with Reading Museum.

Proposal for the Club to purchase a better-quality trophy to replace the existing cup at a cost of not more than £300 with certificates to be provided for all winners was approved *nem com*.

Action: CW to investigate purchase of new trophy

There will be a special collection by the Club in memory of Gordon with the proceeds to go to the RSPB. Collection will run from the AGM until the photographic competition.

Action: JR to decide whether cheques should be made out to the RSPB or the BOC.

9. **Appointment of President**

Document prepared by DR was circulated prior to the meeting.

Action: all to consider the type of person who should be President and possible names. Suggestions to be sent to RRi.

It was agreed that the Club's executive officers should discuss possible candidates in the spring for presentation to the March committee meeting. The appointment should be made in time for it to be announced at the end of the current season of indoor meetings.

Action: MT to include this as agenda item for January and March meetings

10. **Overview of Findings from Questionnaire**

Report and list of actions prepared by MT was circulated prior to the meeting.

Thanks expressed to MT and CW for organising the questionnaire.

The findings will be used as input to any future discussions on the way that the Club is run.

Action: RRe to check availability of radio microphones for meetings.

Action: Chair of indoor meetings to ask anyone contributing from the floor to stand up and turn round so that everyone can hear them.

Action: MT to produce name badges for officers for the AGM. Note that TR and JR already have badges.

TR has offered to write reviews of indoor meetings for the newsletter.

MT to investigate options for communicating with members not on the internet. Will need to ask members to let him know if they want to hear about changes to meetings.

Action: MT to circulate feedback on meeting topics/content and any general comments to the whole committee.

The committee endorsed the list of actions proposed.

11. Programme Sub-committee report

Draft programme for 2012/13 was circulated prior to the meeting. Dates were agreed by the Committee. Other possible topics include an evening on the Atlas in January, a talk by CW and TR on their trip to Catalonia and a local bird artist. Also an evening with David Lindo (the Urban Birder), possibly as a celebrity slot.

RRe looking at comments from questionnaire. Considering possibility of smaller events for inexperienced birders.

Members evening: need a number of 10-20min contributions.

Action: DR to ask David Massie to something, either for this or for a whole meeting.

Action to investigate possible links with Silwood Park for possible speakers on their projects is ongoing.

Following the talk on Wednesday, there has been a request for the Club to consider organising a trip to Poland.

Need to publicise events well in advance (before publication of programme card if necessary).

12. Reports for consideration

a. Atlas Group update

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

b. Conservation Officer report:

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Update on Sonning Eye: HN reported that the extraction company's enthusiasm and financial resources appear to be waning. Promised work has not been done – HN to try and persuade the company to carry out the work. Permissive path is in place to allow public access. Some good birds being recorded.

Action: HN to do newsletter article.

Report on Burnthouse lane and Field Farm GP circulated by KM prior to the meeting. Plans discussed with W. Berks planner who would like to see positions of any proposed ponds.

Update on Fobney: work should finish around end of November. No public access until late spring. RBC setting up Friends of Fobney group – meeting of interested parties in December/January. RBC expects BOC and RDAA to be reps of the leading user groups. BOC and would like the Club to set up a monitoring programme. RRi to get the site included on the WeBS counts. Management funds available for the next 5-7 years.

Proposals on conservation strategy to come out of Atlas work.

13. **Any Other Business**

- a. Newsletter: TR would like articles for the newsletter in the next 10 days.
- b. Christmas Social: **Action**: DR to ask David Massie if he has any photos which could be used for the quiz.
- c. Projector: TABCG has asked whether BOC would be willing to split the cost of a digital projector with the equipment being available for use by both clubs. **Action**: requires consideration
- d. Prints for sale: the prints passed to the Club by Brian Uttley are to go on sale at the AGM or the meeting afterwards. Need to define how they are to be sold and guide prices. An original RG painting and a book have also been donated for sale.
- e. Indoor programme: request made to fit Bob Flood (Scillies) into the current programme to coincide with his planned visit to the mainland.
- f. RG exhibition and Birds Day at Reading Museum. Request for all committee members to come along and talk to people who come in to see exhibition
Action: anyone planning to come to let CW know.

14. **Date and venue for next meeting.**

Wednesday 25th January 2012 at 7.30pm. Venue TBA.