



## Berkshire Ornithological Club

### Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
at 63 Hamilton Road, Reading

**Present:** Renton Righelato (chair) (RRi), John Roberts (Treasurer), Mike Turton (Secretary), Ray Reedman (RRe), Ken Moore, Bill Nicoll, Carole White (CWh), Tim Ball, Ted Rogers

1. Apologies for absence: Heidi Bailey, John Lerpiniere, Neil Bucknell, Colin Wilson, Martin Sell

2. Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were approved and signed.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

**Item 3:** action to investigate options for communicating with members not on the internet is still outstanding.

**Item 6:** list of new members being supplied prior to each meeting.

**Item 6:** new display stands purchased and in use for public events.

**Item 8:** Ringing demo at Hosehill confirmed for 8<sup>th</sup> July. Awaiting date for Moor Green.

**Item 10:** TB has supplied costs for printing which are well below commercial rates. All printing to be done through TB where practical. TB thanked for his offer.

### 4. **Treasurer's Report**

Report circulated prior to meeting. Club funds are currently

General	£19,109
Conservation	£4,277
Atlas	£7,191

Expenditure due for meetings etc. is estimated at £1,000, but this will be offset by a Gift Aid claim for much the same figure. Subs now total £5,087 (though this may have increased slightly since the report was produced) against last year's total of £5,413. Income from the sale of data is £520 to date.

Income from the sale of prints given by Brian Uttley totalled £145: HMRC advise that the amount raised from the sale of these prints can be Gift Aided if the donor signs a Gift Aid declaration, so JR has written to Brian. JR to also check with the donor of the Robert Gillmor painting currently being auctioned.

The cost of room 109 increases to £193 per meeting from September, an increase of £10 per meeting.

### 5. **Editorial Board Reports**

#### 2006/7 Report

Ready for distribution. Cost around £3,000, slightly less than anticipated.

Report to be available at next indoor meeting for people to collect. Any copies not collected will be posted or delivered by hand. Put return address on envelopes.

**Action:** MT to get address labels and coordinate distribution at meeting.

**Action:** MT to find out cost of postage

**Action:** All to let MT know if they can help by delivering by hand and where they can deliver.

Report to be sent to all members who are currently on the database, including those who have not yet paid their subscription, but who have not yet been removed.

#### 2008 Report

In progress - systematic list, weather report, ringing report and cover all completed. Target is for report to be ready for inclusion in August mailing.

#### 2009 report

KM unable to contact some of the SAWs; Marek chasing them up. Species have been allocated to SAWs and Derek Barker has provided species account guidance.

Target is to be ready for publication by end 2012. All content required by end October. Need suggestions for cover drawing ASAP – to be sent to Robert Gillmor.

#### 2010 Report

Derek Barker working on systematic list.

#### General

Derek Barker not expecting to receive assistance towards cost of broadband after this year.

Options for raising funds from sale/raffle of original cover artwork were discussed.

**Action:** JR to review options and make recommendation.

### 6. **Membership Report**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Number of members lost in 2010/11 was queried – as membership remains steady, this implies that there were 53 new members in the same period, which seems high.

Appears that some members only stay for one year – need to find out why. Ask HB if she asks members why they do not renew; need to log comments (especially negative ones) for analysis. JR has some comments from former members who used to Gift Aid their subscriptions.

**Action:** MT to discuss with HB

**Action:** JR to pass comments to MT

MT arranging date with HB to discuss membership process. Need to include interface with treasurer (JR/BN).

Need to identify opportunities to run general Introduction to Birdwatching sessions to attract new members.

### 7. **Programme Sub-committee report**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

#### Indoor programme: 2012/13

- John Sparks- no further progress. Need to set date before filling remaining slot.
- Possibly consider Ralph Todd (Cranes part 2) for last date if nothing else available.  
**Action:** suggestions to RRe ASAP.
- Include an afternoon meeting for non-members or members not able to get out in the evening. To be held at a central location which is easy to reach by car or public transport. Will need capacity of 50-100 people. Possibly a 'lighter' topic than some evening talks.  
**Action:** RRe to investigate.

#### Indoor programme: 2013/14

Ideas for 2013/14 discussed. Talk on fossil birds suggested.

**Action:** RRe to contact Natural History Museum.

**Action:** all to send suggestions to RRe.

## Outdoor programme: 2012/13

3 E. Berks RSPB coach trips.

9 or 10 mid week walks. CWh offered to help organise December walk and Christmas lunch, but will need help as she will be away for part of November.

8 day trips, including 2 coach trips. Possibly include trip to Slimbridge in January.

Weekend trips: Norfolk weekend booked for 7-10<sup>th</sup> February. Need volunteer to organise a spring weekend trip.

BN to contact Ken White about dates for his overseas trips.

Trip to Poland in early May to be included in programme. 9 people have expressed interest to date.

**Action:** BN to organise detailed planning meeting and circulate draft programme to committee.

## 8. **Term of Presidency**

At last meeting, the committee agreed that the presidency should be offered as a limited term, pending further discussion. It has been suggested by Robert Gillmor and agreed by Neil Bucknell that the term should be set at 6 years, timed so that President and Chair do not change at the same time. The possibility of reappointing an existing incumbent as President should not be precluded. Proposal approved *nem com* by the Trustees.

Constitution requires amendment to reflect change to term of presidency and any other minor changes as required. Will need to be put to AGM for approval.

**Action:** MT to draft proposed changes for next meeting.

## 9. **Executive Officers**

Treasurer: JR to stand down as Treasurer after 17 years. BN willing to take over. BN to be proposed for election as treasurer at AGM, but will take on responsibility from start of the next financial year (1<sup>st</sup> October). JR was thanked for his service to the Club.

Chair: RRI's term as chair comes to an end at the AGM. Successor to be discussed with NB and at next meeting.

## 10. **Events**

Museum Day: RRI reported back. Event went well with an impressive BOC presence. New display stands used. Thanks to all involved.

Newbury Show: RRI has raised this with NDOC – they are happy for BOC to front this. No progress on contacting organisers.

### Other events

Earley Green Fair (early August): RRe to coordinate, but will send round email asking for assistance.

**Action:** MT to look for other events, especially away from Reading.

**Action:** All to send ideas for events that may be worth attending to MT.

**Action:** RRI to talk to Ken Norris about developing links with students at University.

## 11. **Conservation**

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Wolf Trust (see report): 2 Little Owl boxes in place. Another Barn Owl box being put up this weekend.

Basildon Park: nest boxes checked – all had been used. Atlas species list supplied to the NT.

John L producing proposal to go to Conservation Fund for purchase of more nest boxes.

Fobney: Barn Owl and Little Owl boxes being installed this weekend. Neither the management group, which includes BOC, nor the Friends group (who will be doing volunteer conservation work) have been set up yet. No public access to be allowed until the end of the summer to allow vegetation to grow. No barrier in place yet to stop access to west end of island from the public area to the east.

Field Farm: Permission granted by Hanson to KM to carry out surveys. Hanson would like list of all species recorded. Revised management plan being submitted to West Berks Council by Hanson.

Heron's Nest: Hanson will work round sensitive species such as LRPs.

Smallmead/Burnthouse Lane: infill at both sites being held up due to licence issues which will give possibly an extra 2 years life to the LRP habitat at Burnthouse Lane. Hadleys will work round sensitive species such as LRPs. No long-term conservation objectives for Burnthouse Lane, but Grazeley PC in discussion with Englefield Estate and AWE about creation of wet meadow habitat to alleviate flooding. BOC (through KM) need to be aware of, and try to influence, plans being submitted to Grazeley PC.

Theale Main: fishing rights transferred to member of a consortium which has some connections to the consortium running Moatlands and to RDAA. More fishing to be promoted at the site, but access for birdwatchers should be unaffected.

Woolhampton: main concern is with plan for continuation of duck shooting 6 weekends/year on the nature reserve area and the construction of otter-proof fencing around the reserve. Next meeting of Woolhampton Quarry Nature reserve trust is on 25<sup>th</sup> May. KM has still not been sent minutes of the meetings which took place prior to his involvement.

**Action:** MT to send copy of site map to KM & RRi.

Farmland Finches: visit being arranged to Tree Sparrow feeding project in Oxfordshire to see if a similar project can be set up in Berkshire to develop existing small winter sites and possibly establish nesting colonies.

Conservation Strategy: RRi proposed that discussion of this be held over until early 2013 when Atlas data will be available and RRi will have more time to develop the strategy.

## 12. **Reports for consideration**

### a. Atlas Group update

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

**Action:** RRi to produce newsletter item on species sponsorship.

## 13. **Any Other Business**

a. Newsletter: any articles to be sent to TR ASAP. To include request for bookings for seabird cruise and Bird Fair trip. Newsletter to be sent out separately from 2006/7 report.

b. JR has invited Tony Knight (donor of Robert Gillmor painting) to the next indoor meeting.

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

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 7.30pm. Venue 63 Hamilton Road, Reading.