



Berkshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Thursday 5th June 2014
at Park House, University of Reading

Present: Neil Bucknell (president), Tim Ball (chair), Mike Turton (Secretary), Chris Foster, John Walker, Martin Sell, Robin Dryden, Becky Thomas, Ray Reedman (RRe), Renton Righelato (RRi).

1. Apologies for absence: Ted Rogers, Iain Oldcorn, Bill Nicoll (Treasurer)

2. **Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27th March 2014**

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Item 6 (Membership Structure): reaction from university to the proposal regarding joint membership with University Ornithological Society was positive. Not much progress since then due to exams.

Item 11 (Archivist): Peter Hutchins has offered to take on storage and management of the Club's archives. MT to arrange handover with Peter. It was agreed that a list of the contents of the archives should be put on the website.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Report was circulated prior to this meeting.

The Treasurer was not present at the meeting and there were no questions.

Membership Secretary's Report

Report circulated prior to meeting.

The Membership Secretary was not present at the meeting and there were no questions.

5. **Programme Sub-committee report**

Report was circulated prior to this meeting.

Room 109 is not available for the opening meeting on 24th September. The University have offered another room in Park House. The seating is not raked, but otherwise it is acceptable. RRe has negotiated to have it at the same price as Room 109.

Thanks expressed to BT for suggestions for speakers for the indoor programme.

Action: RRe to discuss with BN whether we can claim VAT exemption.

The need for new leaders for the outdoor programme was discussed.

6. **Conservation Sub-committee report**

Minutes of the May Conservation Committee meeting were circulated prior to this meeting.

Padworth Lane GP

Canal & Rivers Trust wish to lease out management of Padworth Lane GP. Possibility of BBOWT taking it on seems unlikely, especially as there is no accompanying funding. The BOC is not the right organisation to manage the site. Setting up a local group needs the right person to organise it. Committee looking at whether site can be designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

There continue to be problems with vandalism and unauthorised access. Canal & Rivers Trust have not responded to request to divert footpath.

Review of Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

Very few existing LWS have any designations for birds. TVERC have asked BOC to review bird criteria for LWS designation, to review all existing LWS and suggest new ones.

Other items:

Tree Sparrow Recovery Project to go ahead this autumn.

Problem with unauthorised access at Pingewood GPs.

Note of meeting with TVERC circulated. Developers are being referred to BOC by TVERC for information on birds, but few are following this up. There are problems with the format of data being sent to TVERC from the county database – this is being investigated by RRi, TB and Marek Walford.

NB meeting with Annie English (Berkshire Local Nature Partnership) next week to discuss how BOC can help with their conservation programme.

7. **Editorial Board Report**

2009 & 2010 reports now published and distributed. There was a saving of £1000 on publication costs by getting it printed in Poland. As a result the decision to print 2011 and 2012 at the same time is being reviewed as costs of publishing these separately may not now be as great. Separate publication would result in the 2011 report being available sooner.

2011 systematic list almost complete and articles being assembled.

Action: BT to ask students for contributions.

2012 systematic list has not been started.

Derek Barker has resigned as editor due to pressure of work. A new editor is needed.

8. **County Recorder/BRC review**

A briefing note giving background to the review, membership of the review panel and issues to be discussed was circulated prior to this meeting.

The reasons for the review were discussed, in particular the need for a revised process for record adjudication. RRi has looked at the draft Oxford OS Records Committee charter.

The review is due for completion mid-2015.

It was proposed that the BOC representatives on the review panel should be TB (as BOC chair), RRi and Marek Walford (representing those involved in processing records).

Approved *nem com*.

Action: TB to inform NDOC of the BOC panel members and ask them to propose one or more representatives as defined in the review process.

9. **Publicity**

A briefing document on progress since the last meeting was circulated prior to this meeting. No volunteers have come forward as a result of the article in the newsletter.

Mike Taylor has said that he would like to step down as web master before the autumn.

Action: Mike Turton to ask Mike Taylor/Marek Walford if they know of any members who would be able to take this role on.

Action: MT to send email to membership about the web master role and reminding them of the need for people to help with publicity.

10. **Events**

No BOC presence at the Bracknell Recorders Day due to lack of volunteers.

University Bioblitz will not happen this year.

RRe has booked stand for Earley Green Fair on 2nd August and will sort out gazebo.

Action: MT to ask membership for volunteers to help at the fair.

TVERC Berkshire Records day will be in the autumn – date to be confirmed.

11. **Elections to Committee and Annual Member Mailing**

List of committee vacancies was circulated prior to this meeting.

Action: MT to update Secretary's job description.

Action: All to think of possible candidates for Secretary and committee.

Action: MT to circulate list of BOC members to committee to help with identifying possible candidates.

Need to raise profile of the committee and what it does.

Action: MT to write newsletter article summarising what committee has done over the last 12 months.

Action: MT to put summary of committee business on Facebook and email after each meeting.

Need to raise profile of conservation work that the Conservation Committee is doing. Include regular announcements in indoor meetings, Conservation Committee report at the AGM and a rolling slide programme for indoor meetings. Raise profile on the Facebook group.

Proposal to mail out the annual mailing to all members on the newsletter email list was approved *nem com*. Printed copies of the programme card should be made available at the indoor meetings.

12. **Arrangements for sale of BofB artwork**

A briefing note on previous attempts to sell the artwork was circulated prior to this meeting.

Artwork for 2009 and 2010 reports has now been received.

Reasons for failure to sell the artwork last time were discussed. Have we reached saturation point for the sale of artwork to Club members?

Options discussed:

- Formal raffle with tickets at a higher price than normal, e.g. £5. Need a couple of other prizes.
- Make the 2005, 2006/7 and 2008 pictures available for sale on the website at a fixed price on first come, first served basis. Title "Original Robert Gillmor artwork for sale" to attract outside attention. Set deadline for the sale.
- Raffle the 2009 and 2010 artwork at the AGM.

Action: RRe to organise a raffle for the AGM.

Action: MT to ask Robert for guidance on sale price for pictures.

13. **Reports for consideration:**

Social Media Update

Report was circulated prior to this meeting.

Facebook group fairly quiet at present – will pick up when programme starts.

CF putting regular tweets out on Twitter, these are to be reposted to Facebook.

Action: CF/BT to find out if there are statistics for number of visitors to Facebook group.

Action: MT to find out how many Facebook group members are not BOC members.

14. **Any Other Business**

BT reported that Reading University did very well in the University Birdwatch Challenge, coming 2nd for the number of species recorded and 1st for the number of records submitted.

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

Tuesday 4th November at 7.30pm, Park House, University of Reading.