



Berkshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Thursday 8th July 2021

via Zoom

Present: Rob Godden (RG, Chair), Eleanor Pitts (EP, Treasurer), Jane Campbell (JC, Secretary), Sally Wearing (SW), Sue Charnley (SC), Iain Oldcorn (IO), Marek Walford (MW, County Recorder), Andy Tomczynski (AT) and Ray Reedman (RRe)

This meeting was held online by Zoom as it was not possible to meet in person.

1. Apologies for absence:

Chris Foster (**CF**), Renton Righelato (**RRi**)

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15th April 2021

The minutes were approved and will be signed by **RG**.

3. Matters Arising and Review of Actions not covered elsewhere

There were no matters arising. Action updates were:

Item 3:

Amazon Smile is operational, and members were informed.

Item 6:

JC provided details to **IO** of Mr A E Knight's 10-year honorary membership and it was agreed no action is needed until next year.

RG drafted guidelines to pass to trip leaders

SW has started a policy for vulnerable adults and adults with a disability.

JC and **EP** updated all policy documents reviewed at the last meeting.

Item 11:

JC has converted **RRe's** presentations to a format that can be uploaded to YouTube by **SW**. They are too large to be put on our website. There is still work to do to offer this extremely useful resource to members. **IO** suggested we do not publish them all at the same time.

4. Formal record of items agreed by email or actioned since the last meeting

None.

5. Treasurer's Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The committee discussed the options presented in the report and agreed that we will continue with a current account with Santander; a current account with CAF that now costs £8 per month; and deposit account with CAF. We had planned to have a current account with Triodos but they have changed their eligibility criteria and BOC is no longer eligible. We had also planned to invest in a range of Triodos deposit accounts but these are far less generous than they used to be. Despite Triodos's green

credentials, interest rates are so low that investing with them would not benefit us enough to warrant the extra work. This will be re-considered as necessary.

Annual Review of Subscriptions: EP proposed that no changes are required, and this was agreed by the committee.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

IO reported that membership levels follow a similar pattern to last year and that Ted Rogers is now providing backup for sending emails to our members. Paul Goriup has been notified that he has become a life member, having been a BOC member for 50 years.

Newsletter: Content is needed for the August newsletter. AT agreed to provide some photos and RRe will publicise his tutorials.

Action: All to provide IO content for the next newsletter by 31st July

7. Publicity and Advertising

CF has changed our name on Twitter and will try to do the same for Instagram.

Action: CF to review and revise the membership leaflet, programme leaflet, posters and other publicity material, then circulate for comment.

8. Programme Report

Indoor Programme: The report was circulated before the meeting.

SC will continue to update the website but is still waiting for some speakers to confirm details. This needs to be finalised in the next couple of weeks so the printed programme can be created. RRe kindly offered to produce the programme card. SW pointed out the header text on the indoor events webpage must be changed and SC will ask RRI to do this. SC asked that RG and RRI provide text for the 75th anniversary event.

There is still uncertainty that our talks will be held at Reading University and RG will provide a piece for the newsletter that informs our members how talks will take place and what will happen if Government guidelines change from what is currently expected.

It was agreed that a 'dry run' in the Palmer building is needed to test how we can run a live event with an audience whilst simultaneously presenting it via Zoom. EP suggested that both CF and Jake Bishop may be able to help as they know how the university's tech is used.

SC confirmed the three speakers for the 75th anniversary event are Neil Bucknell (Atlas); RRI (Conservation); and Andy Swash (Memories). A poster display using old records held by Andy Horscroft will be created and this may feed into a revision of a booklet produced for the 50th anniversary.

Christmas event: We have a talk on bats, another on peregrines and possibly a short photo competition using the past cup winning pictures.

Action: SC to set up a session at Reading University for a dry run and to ask CF and Jake if they can help.

Action: SC to ask RRI to change the text on the website.

Action: SC to finalise details on the website.

Action: RRe to produce the programme card

Action: RG to provide a newsletter article on how talks will be held

Action: RRI to progress the poster and booklet for the 75th anniversary event

Action: SW to progress the possibility of Mary Braddock's and Campbell Murn's talks being made public.

Outdoor Programme:

RRe has a draft programme ready but needs ideas for September and November. He would like to cater for those who joined us from East Berks RSPB by running events in East Berkshire and suggestions were QMR and Windsor Great Park. It was decided that rather than publicise an event with 'leader to be advised' **RRe** will communicate with members if anything is organised after the events are published.

RRe is grateful to Gray Burfoot, **RG** and David Fuller amongst others who are leading events. Once again it was noted that a replacement for **RRe** is needed and **RG** proposed that if no-one can be found that this role would be taken by the committee.

9. Conservation-Sub-Committee Report

The report and minutes of a meeting held on 27th April 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting.

RG noted how active the Conservation group has been. **SW** suggested that the LRP article in Upstream could be used in our newsletter. **IO** thought it we had already published it but will check to determine if there is anything new to report. **RG** suggested a report on surveys would be interesting and asked if **AT** could provide this.

Action: IO to check Upstream for suitable news.

Action: AT to produce an article on surveys.

10. Editorial Board Report

A report was circulated prior to the meeting by **SW** and **RG**.

SW has a few finishing touches to make to the 2017 report which will be sent to Robert Still in the next few days. Ken Moore is still to provide highlights for the 2018 report and input from two people is outstanding for 2019.

Action: SW to provide the 2017 report to Robert Still.

11. AGM

This is on November 17th and is expected to be held at Reading University.

Action: JC to send draft agenda to RG

12. Notification of Elections to Committee

RG, **EP** and **JC** are willing to stand again in their Executive Officer roles and all other committee members are within their term of office and with one exception are willing to continue. **RRe** suggested that Jake Bishop is asked to join.

RRe wishes to retire and this position will be advertised to members

Action: JC to contact Jake Bishop

Action: JC to ask for nominations to **RRe**'s role

13. Arrangements for Annual Member Mailing

JC will gather together documents for a mailing in August. This will include:

- AGM notice with agenda
- Minutes of 2020's AGM
- Programme card
- Renewal notices
- August newsletter

Action: JC to ensure all documents are ready in good time.

14. AOB

EP made the committee aware that although she is willing to continue as Treasurer, she will not be able to attend events so some practical matters will need to be resolved.

Date of Next Meeting

RG asked if committee members would prefer future meetings to be held in person at Park House or on Zoom. There was a split in opinion, and it was agreed November's meeting will be held on Zoom. **PLEASE enter this in your diaries as soon as possible.**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th November 2021 at 8pm**, to be held online via Zoom.

Jane Campbell, 10th July 2021

Suspended Actions

Matters arising: SW had been given a telescope and tripod by a BOC member who wanted them to go to young birders or, if not, to be used to raise funds for the Club. It had been decided to offer them to Maiden Erlegh School, but this had not yet been possible.

Action: RRe to find out whether Maiden Erlegh School want the equipment.

Publicity and Advertising: the following actions will be continued when the current government restrictions are relaxed.

Action: CF to advertise free attendance in the University and to consider how to advertise in other places.

Action: RRe to investigate advertising free attendance at meetings in local schools.

Action: CF to put up posters advertising the BOC at the University.