



Berkshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Monday 17th October 2022

via Zoom

Present: Robert Godden (RG, Chair), Edwin Bruce-Gardner (EB-G, Treasurer), Jane Campbell (JCC, Secretary), Iain Oldcorn (IO), Andy Tomczynski (AT), Marek Walford (MW), Sue Charnley (SC) Neil Bucknell (NB) Bob Lyle (BL) and Debby Reynolds (DR)

1. Apologies for absence: Renton Righelato (RRi), Sally Wearing (SW), Chris Foster (CF)

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 28th April 2022

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

3. Matters Arising and Review of Actions not covered elsewhere

None

Robert welcomed Debby to the meeting.

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

None.

5. Treasurer's Report. The report was circulated before the meeting.

EB-G informed the committee that there was nothing of note that was not included in his written report. He noted that a high proportion of our expenditure is for university hall charges. He has a cheque deposited for which there is no reference and **IO** informed us that when he deposits a cheque there is no method to add a reference.

As Bob Nicholl will no longer be reviewing our accounts **RG** proposed that he asks his brother-in-law to do so, and this was agreed. It was noted that Eleanor Pitts may take this role in the future.

RG suggested that our stock of publications should be added to the asset register, **JCC** will do this.

6. Membership Secretary's Report. The report was circulated before the meeting.

IO had nothing to add to his written report.

IO requested articles for the next newsletter are submitted by November 30th.

As access to QMR is still restricted to a few members willing to visit frequently **RG's** suggestion to update our documentation and website to reflect this was agreed. **BL** proposed that a regular walk at QMR is arranged for members, and this will be investigated by **MW**, **AT** and **RG**.

7. Publicity and Advertising. No report was received.

8. Programme Report

Indoor Programme: The report was circulated before the meeting.

The first meeting took place with not many members on Zoom (**IO** suggested 10) or in the hall. The start was muddled and rushed. The club still hopes someone will volunteer to host the Zoom meetings and this will be mentioned at each indoor event.

IO is concerned that our events are not advertised early enough and that the tasks required are not co-ordinated with named people taking responsibility. It was noted that the Strategy Group's action plan does address this.

AGM (Wed Nov 16th): **RG** is creating a Powerpoint presentation for the Chairman's report which will include contributions from other officers, such as membership numbers, and will conclude with the year's birding highlights for which **RG** is still awaiting input from Ken Moore. **EB-G** will provide **RG** with slides that present the club's accounts.

RG will make a statement at the AGM to explain access to QMR.

Outdoor Programme: The report was circulated before the meeting. **RG** thanked **BL** for including NDOC's events in our programme. As no one has booked the weekend trip to Essex it will be advertised at the next indoor meetings and **IO** will send an email to members.

9. Conservation-Sub-Committee Report: The report was circulated before the meeting.

Additional farm surveyors are still required. **IO** asked how many swift boxes are available and suggested that Colin Wilson and Jan Stannard may be interested in them.

RG informed us that another club has a feeding station at a farm with informative notice boards and wondered if we could do the same if we can find a willing host.

10. Strategy Group: The report and other documents were circulated before the meeting.

- **Meeting Start Time:** Survey results suggest that 7.30 is the preferred start time. This is still to be formally agreed. **RG** suggested that before we finally commit, we should consider whether the change would generate any as yet unforeseen adverse consequences.
- **Action Plan:** The committee agreed this is a useful plan and hoped that it can be made to happen. Any comments will be fed back to the group.
- **New Flyer:** It was agreed that the new flyer looks smart. **IO's** comments had not been seen by **BL** and **CF** so will be resent by **IO**. **EB-G** suggested we offer membership by standing order only.

11. Editorial Board Report: A report was circulated prior to the meeting

The 2018 report should be available by the end of the year and will be distributed with Berkshire Birdscapes (free to members).

It was agreed copies of Berkshire Birdscapes will be distributed at indoor meetings. **SW** to provide **JCC** with stock.

AT has photographs for the 2019 report which may be ready by Spring 2023. **AT** is compiling photos for both the 2020 and 2021 reports.

There was another discussion concerning illustrating covers from 2020. Suggestions included commissioning an artist, using photographs, and processing a photo to look like a painting. It was agreed the editorial board will make this decision.

12. AOB

- a. **MW** has many boxes of garden bird records that he collected from Eleanor Pitts. It was agreed these can be recycled.
- b. **DR** thanked us for inviting her to our meeting and told us she has spoken to **RRi** and is impressed by his knowledge and active and productive presidency which she hopes to continue.
- c. **RG** thanked **RRi** for his huge contributions as President.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 19th January 2023 at 8pm**, to be held online via Zoom.

Jane Campbell, 26th October 2022

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