



# Berkshire Ornithological Club

## Minutes of Committee Meeting

held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

via Zoom

**Present:** Robert Godden (RG, Chair), Edwin Bruce-Gardner (EB-G, Treasurer), Jane Campbell (JC, Secretary), Sally Wearing (SW), Iain Oldcorn (IO), Andy Tomczynski (AT), Marek Walford (MW), Sue Charnley (SC) Chris Foster (CF), Neil Bucknell (NB) and Bob Lyle (BL)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Renton Righelato (RRi)

2. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

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

3. **Matters Arising and Review of Actions not covered elsewhere**

None

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

The annual return to the Charity Commission is complete.

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. Bank mandates are in place. **EB-G** is speaking with Eleanor Pitts regarding CAF donate.

- **Annual Review of subscriptions**

There was a discussion with differing opinions. **RG** proposed that as the general fund is healthy there is no increase this year and that we monitor funds over the next season. This was agreed.

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

**IO** had nothing to add to his written report. **RG** noted that the increased membership is encouraging.

7. **Arrangements for August Mailing to members.**

**JC** will organise this to be sent in the first half of August.

These documents are required:

- **Minutes of 2021's AGM:** available
- **Programme Card for the Next Season:** **SW** offered to edit the programme card and Iain offered to proofread. **SC** will add details of indoor events to the website so that **SW** has the data she requires by July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **August Newsletter:** **IO** requires copy by the end of July.
- **Renewal Notices:** available
- **AGM Agenda/Notice**

8. **Notifications of Elections to the Committee**

**RG's** three-year term as Chair is complete. **SW** is willing to stand, it was noted we will also ask for other nominations.

**RRI** is standing down as President; Debby Reynolds was appointed by the committee to this position.

**EB-G** to be proposed as Treasurer

**JC** to be re-elected as Secretary

**SC** and **CF** are required to stand down as trustees; both will continue in non-executive roles.

Three committee members are needed. **RG** will stand. Two others to be found.

Suggestions for committee members are Brian Clews, **RG** will ask him.

**JC** will contact Finley

**CF** will ask if Gaia is willing to stand.

It is noted that the quorum required for a committee meeting is five elected members of the Committee.

## 9. Publicity and Advertising

**CF** had nothing to report.

**RG** led a May Day walk at Maiden Erlegh reserve.

## 10. Programme Report

**Indoor Programme:** The report was circulated before the meeting.

**SC** has an almost complete programme arranged for the new season. It was agreed **NB** will take one slot at the Christmas event to talk about surveys. It was also suggested **NB** runs a quiz at Christmas as these were very well received in the past.

**NB** and **CF** will consider a speaker for the joint BOC/University lecture. Possibilities for speakers included **BL's** suggestion that we contact the Natural History Museum at Tring. **NB** asked **CF** to contact Ken Norris at the museum. **NB** also suggested Richard Fortey whose career at the NH Museum might be interesting for a talk for next year.

**Outdoor Programme:** The report was circulated before the meeting.

**RG** found putting the new season's programme together frustrating because there were not many offers to lead walks though we are grateful that Colin Wilson, Bob Lyle and Peter Driver have offered to lead events for the first time in a while. **BL** has offered to lead a weekend trip to Essex with a maximum of 12 people.

**BL** suggested BOC members are invited to NDOC's Monday walks and that the BOC invites NDOC members to theirs. This was agreed and **BL** will send details to **RG**.

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

**BL** asked if **NB** knew of a farmer who would allow a regular ringer (Phil Dunk). **NB** will contact a farmer in Combe to ask if this is possible.

**12. Strategy Group:** The report was circulated before the meeting.

Once again there was discussion on changing to an earlier start for indoor meetings. It was agreed 7.30 may be too early and to remain with an 8pm start for this season. **SW** will write an article for the newsletter to ask members their views.

The group has started to redesign our publicity material. It was agreed we would offer a fee to Gaia for her work on this and **CF** will ask her how much she thinks is reasonable.

**SW** and **NB** will meet to discuss how to better publicise our conservation work. **BL** will publish on the BOC and NDOC Facebook pages if given copy, **NB** will provide this.

It was agreed social media posts to advertise meetings will be done earlier to give people time to arrange to attend. This is particularly important before the start of the season to remind members of the new season.

In her report, **SW** had looked at the costs of a drive to be dedicated as a shared resource and **IO** queried why this was needed as well as our BOC website; Sally explained that it was for internal use within the group/committee and not for direct access by members. **SW** agreed to set something up which **JC** will then organise.

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

Berkshire's Birdscapes is in its final revision and will be printed soon. **RRi**, **SW** and Brian Clews will organise its distribution.

Cover art is available for the 2018 and 2019 reports. **RG** suggested that photos are used after this, so no comparison is made with Robert Gillmor's work.

**14. AOB**

- a. **JC's** Zoom account no longer has unlimited meetings. **SW** agreed to use hers instead for committee meetings.
- b. **SW** does not want to continue hosting indoor meetings. If no-one can be found to do this **RG** offered to take it on. A request for a volunteer will be made in the next newsletter.
- c. Colin Wilson has been judging the photo competition for many years and does not wish to continue with this from now on. Rob Still has agreed to do this and **JC** will ask a friend if he is interested to join Rob.  
*(update post meeting: **SC** had forgotten she has already asked a second judge)*
- d. It was noted a leader is required for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> indoor meetings as **RG** is away.
- e. **MW** asked if more keys can be obtained for QMR because he is often asked by members. **AT** is unsure this can be done, and **IO** suggested some of the 19/20 that we have are unused.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 8pm**, to be held online via Zoom.

**Jane Campbell, 13<sup>th</sup> July 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.