



Berkshire Ornithological Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Thursday 16th January 2025

via Zoom

Present: Sally Wearing (SW, Chair), Jane Campbell (JC, Secretary), Iain Oldcorn (IO), Elaine Charlson (EC), Neil Bucknell (NB), Peter Driver (PD), Robin Dryden (RD), Robert Godden (RG) and Sue Charnley (SC)

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Debby Reynolds (DR, President), Marek Walford (MW), Chris Foster and Edwin Bruce-Gardner (EB-G, Treasurer)
2. **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 24th October 2024:** The minutes were approved and will be signed by **SW**.
3. **Matters Arising and Review of Actions not covered elsewhere**
 1. **The Climate and Nature Bill:** It was agreed that **SW** will draft a message to bring the bill to the attention of our members. **IO** will distribute.
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.

RG suggested that, as we have no requests for grants, we donate excess conservation funds to a suitable project. **SW** said that we should try to publicise the fund more widely, before considering donations.
6. **Membership Secretary's Report.** The report was circulated before the meeting.

IO reported that he continues to receive late payments. It was agreed the Chair will send a card to life members to recognise their contribution to the club, this will also be included in our newsletters. We currently have eight life members.

The deadline for newsletter articles is the end of March.

QMR Access: **SW** thanked **IO** for his involvement in the past and reported that Peter Newbound will manage this in future. **SW** will update our website to ensure enquiries are sent to Peter and not **IO**. **NB** suggested we create a BOC email address for Peter to use.
7. **Programme Report.** The reports were circulated before the meeting.

Indoor Programme

1. **SW** asked if the dates of reading weeks are available as we need to avoid them for the University lecture. **SC** will contact **CF** to find out the dates for 2026.
2. An email from Wild Justice, who are offering talks, will be forwarded to **SC** by **SW**. John Clark may have another lecture, **SC** will follow this lead. **NB** will investigate a speaker for the University lecture.
3. A conference microphone will be tested at the next meeting.
4. No-one has volunteered to replace **SC**; **SW** will follow up a suggestion from **IO**.

Outdoor Programme

5. **PD** has volunteered to replace **RG** to organise outdoor events. **RG** was thanked for his work over the last few seasons.
6. The recent coach trip to Slimbridge was a success and we will continue to organise this with the Wokingham and Bracknell RSPB group in alternate years.

7. **RG** suggested we ask if the RSPB group want to be included for our minibus visit to Bird Fair on Saturday July 12th, but we decided not to, as we filled the minibus last year. **PD** will be the driver: **SW** agreed to organise the trip.

8. **Publicity and Advertising** The report was circulated before the meeting

PD will be interviewed on Radio Berkshire on Friday Jan17th.

BlueSky now has 310 followers.

There is a TVERC event in Kidlington on March 22nd, **NB** may be attending.

PD will investigate obtaining a pull-up publicity banner.

Dinton Pastures and Maiden Erlegh nature reserve were suggested as additional locations for a new members' event. It was agreed that we would use Dinton Pastures for an event to be held at the end of April or early May.

PD is redesigning our programme card.

9. **Strategy and Planning**

SW asked **IO** for contact details of members who have joined since October. She will ask them for feedback on the information they received in their Welcome Packs.

To engage with the public, we would like to organise an event at Dinton Pastures to be held in late Spring or June. We will set up a gazebo near the bird feeding area. **SW** will contact Dinton.

How to publicise the Conservation Fund. **NB** reported he had promoted it at the recent TVERC recorders day and had no response. He suggested that he cast his net wider to advertise the fund with a Chilterns group. **NB** will draft a leaflet to publicise our fund. A graphic designer is needed, **PD** will draft an email asking if anyone has suitable skills they can volunteer. **SW** will contact Rob Still to see if he can help.

10. **Conservation Sub-Committee Report** - The report was circulated before the meeting.

SW asked if **KM** had made any progress with the small project to attract Little Ringed Plovers at Padworth; **SW** may follow up with Ken Moore.

11. **Editorial Board Report** -The report was circulated before the meeting.

The 2022 and 2023 reports may be combined.

SW reported the very good news that Martin Hallam, a local artist, has agreed to provide covers at no cost for our future reports.

RD agreed to check the current 'Where to watch Birds in Berkshire' booklet for any changes needed. It will then be reprinted as stocks are low.

12. **Administration**

1. **Use of Email.** **SW** requested that committee members are more mindful of who is copied to emails. This is to both reduce the number of messages to individuals and also not to offend people copied in conversations not meant for them.
2. **Chair replacement.** A new Chair is needed from November 2025 when **SW's** term ends. There were no suggestions from the committee.

13. **AOB**

1. **PD** has spoken to his MP about the Sulham Meadows project who asked **PD** to arrange a visit. **PD** asked if he should do this individually or if the BOC wants to be involved. **NB** suggested **PD** asks the MP to contact the estate office directly to arrange a visit.
2. **DR** asked if the committee would be interested in an early evening social event at her house. Thursday June 19th was suggested as a suitable date.
3. Colin Wilson suggested that the BOC recognise members such as Ray Reedman, who have made long and outstanding contributions. It was agreed that framed certificates will be presented, probably at our 80th anniversary event, and that an

article will be written for the newsletter.

4. Production of a new Atlas will start in 2027. Can we find people who want to organise this?
5. **RG** asked if an obituary has been written for Peter Standley. **RG** will ask Chris Heard to contribute to this.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday April 3rd 2025, at 7.30pm, to be held on Zoom.

Jane Campbell, 28th January 2025